



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillor Rob Owens (Chair) and Councillors Cat Hornsey, Ben Proctor, Dan Powell, Jeremy Milln (Part)

Attending: Steve Kerry Town Clerk and Ms Sera Hornsey (a minor)

CBD2023/24.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillor Toynbee and from Councillor Milln for lateness.

CBD2023/24.15 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CBD2023/24.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CBD2023/24.17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of 27 January be accepted as a true record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

CBD2023/24.18 PRESENTATION BY THE HEREFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Clerk reported that the message asking for someone to come to the meeting to discuss the work of the trust and who the Council might continue to help with, appeared to have gone astray within the organisation and they had not been able to arrange a representative. They were keen to come and would be scheduled for the next meeting.

CBD2023/24.19 CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Clerk introduced his report on progress so far in working out how we might go about assessing the carbon footprint of the Council. This was more complicated than it might first appear as the Council was an enabler of actions by others in many areas, for example, it part funded allotments and grant aided various projects, but it did not cultivate vegetables or develop woodlands. Similarly, the Council was not the primary energy consumer at the Town Hall, nor did it own the building or have any power over things like insulation or replacing the somewhat antique heating system with something more modern and energy efficient. This meant many of the assessments that could be made would depend on information from others which was still being sought. Some details regarding the Town Hall had been requested well over a year ago with reference to the discussions about a possible asset transfer but has still not been forthcoming.

Councillor Proctor stated that he was pleased that the report was underway and that so much had been done to identify the issues that needed to be fleshed out. He recommended that the Environmental Information Regulations be used to require Herefordshire Council to disclose key information even if they were unwilling to do so as part of asset transfer talks. It was noted that the upcoming feasibility study of the Town Hall by external consultants, which was jointly funded by both Councils, should be used to shed more light on environmental issues. Allotments need to be considered carefully, the majority of our funding has always been used to pay for water consumption and we have invested in assets to capture rainwater and recycle, so as to reduce the drawing of mains or groundwater which has a beneficial environmental effect as well as a financial one for Hereford Allotments and Leisure Gardeners.

For the next meeting the Clerk will go through recent grants to identify those which have had a positive environmental benefit, report on progress with the Town Hall feasibility study and attempt to assess the purchase and use life cycle of IT equipment to determine our environmental impact in that area.

It was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Proctor and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Committee agrees to the next steps listed in the report and those added above and awaits a further report on their progress.

Councillor Milln arrived at this point.

CBD2023/24.20 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust presentation

Carbon Footprint update

Environmental grants – noted that as part of the committee review a virement of responsibility and funding would be considered by Council in November and that thereafter, if the change was approved, the Chair of this Committee and the Chair of Community Development Committee would meet with the External Funding and Community Support Officer to establish which grants would go to each Committee. The grants process would be the same for both Committees.

Hereford Zipper – ownership of the project to be resolved between Policy and Resources Committee and this Committee.

Publicising grants for home improvements for environmental benefits.

CBD2023/24.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 6 pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed

Date