



Minutes from a meeting of the **Environment and Climate Emergency Working Party** held on, **Tuesday 20 October 2020, virtually via Google Meet at 1900**

Those present were:-

Councillors: Theo Brown, Dorothy Kirk, Alex Polglase (Chair), Alastair Tinto, Jim Wakem, Mark Warwick

Community members: Juliet Hilary, Peter Bloomfield

Clare Bullimore, Deputy Clerk (minutes).

Juliet and Peter had trouble with the technology and communicated via chat/email. Some information has been added from emails received after the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mai Evans, Lily Russell, Tim Dart, Don Ellson

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**4. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 25-02-2020**

Minutes were approved (proposed: Alastair Tinto, seconded: Mark Warwick – agreed by all who were present at the last meeting).

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

Earth Protector Towns – Alex will follow up on this.

**6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE**

Carbon Neutral Cornwall – Information had been disseminated about this event

Carbon Audit Presentation – the link to this presentation had been disseminated.

Feedback from Alastair was that the link had some useful sources of potential funding.

**7. FOREST FOR PLANTING SCHEME/PROJECTS THAT MATTER SUCCESSFUL FUNDING BID**

Alastair explained that at short notice he had put in a bid to the Projects that Matter fund and been successful. £1000 will be granted on condition that a further £1000 (minimum) is matched through Crowdfunding with at least 30 individuals pledging money.

A small working party have met and will meet to progress this and it was agreed to concentrate on the 5 main settlements in the parish: Calstock, Gunnislake, Harrowbarrow, St Ann's Chapel and Chilsworthy. It will be imperative to engage the local community in this initiative and find suitable places and trees (native to the area).

Positive feedback was received about this although caution was also voiced about air pollution along the A390 which can be exacerbated by tree cover.

It was felt that an inventory of trees is needed – Clare will liaise with the AONB about this.



**8. PLASTIC FREE CEMETERIES**

Clare reported that the Parish Council had resolved that the cemeteries will become plastic free which will see the removal (over time) of all plastic items including artificial flowers, ornaments and cellophane. This initiative will need very careful campaigning and a period of notice to inform people that items will be removed from graves. It will be a big piece of work and it is hoped that a community team can help with the clearing of the sites – there is a staggering amount of plastic debris all over the cemeteries. Positive feedback was received on this.

**9/10. STRIMMING/MOWING SCHEDULE & WILD/EDIBLE AREAS WITHIN THE PARISH**

Clare explained that the Parish Council gets various complaints – some about the untidy hedges and verges and some about the recent strimming of the same areas. There was discussion about Cormac being responsible for maintaining highways and homeowners being responsible for their own property. However it was felt that a balance between road safety and biodiversity should be brokered and Juliet suggested that Cornwall Council have looked at their schedule to try to balance safety issues and preservation of the natural environment.

It was felt that some areas in each ward could be identified as being wild or edible areas which may help mitigate against the areas that are required to be strimmed for safety purposes.

Some villages are already doing this and Gunnislake has a wildflower area on the King George V Playing Field and a community orchard next to the Health Centre in Gunnislake.

A small group will look at areas that both require strimming and suggest areas that could be planted up for edible use or for wilding – Jim and Mark expressed an interest in this project.

It was agreed that schools should be involved in this project and there is a fund called ‘Orchards For Schools’. Alex will contact Calstock School, Jim will contact Gunnislake and Delaware and Theo will do Harrowbarrow.

**11. URGENT INFORMATION**

- Dorothy reported that Cormac are doing another feasibility study on the A390 and she is liaising with public transport about the importance of retaining these services.
- It was agreed that an agenda item will be put on the Full Council agenda about campaigning for an electric charging point in Gunnislake Car Park
- Alex mooted the idea of an electric car pool in Calstock
- Alex reported on the rare fish, Allis Shad, breeding in the Tamar.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1958

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....