



Minutes of a meeting of the **Calstock Parish Council**,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, held on **Tuesday 24 October 2023**, in
the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900

Those present were; -

Councillors: Richard Newton Chance (Chair), Andrew Brown, Phil Spurr, Alex Polglase, Jim Wakem

Public : Peter Bloomfield, Alison Freshney, Gill Court, Judith Robinson, Karen Wilson

Miss Clare Bullimore (Deputy Clerk – *minutes*).

1. APOLOGIES

Phil Spurr, Mark Warwick, Dorothy Kirk, Sarah Ashley

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public (non-committee members) were present and took an active part in the meeting.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 28-06-2023

Proposal/Resolution: the minutes be approved – all agreed by those present at the last meeting – proposed: Alex Polglase, seconded: Andrew Brown.

5. CLERK'S INFORMATION

Staffing

Clare is temporarily the Acting Clerk following Sue Lemon's resignation. The Parish Council are undergoing a staffing review and considering more staff to work more hours in the outdoor services, to help incorporate environmental projects.

Hedgerows – data on working farms

Clare has got a list of all addresses in the parish with the word 'Farm' in their address. She is asking DEFRA if it is possible to have information about all those that are still working farms. In the meantime, Peter suggested sending the list to the committee and asking people in their communities to tick those they know of.

Andrew Brown reported on the focus of the Recovering Nature work – included in appendix.

6. UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUPS

Recovering Nature

FEAST – Judith reported a successful bid to FEAST to run an intergenerational photographic project with children from Calstock and Stoke Climsland primary schools and the sensory Dementia project. The objectives will be to raise awareness of wildlife and nature and create links with the AONB and the Box in Plymouth.



Hedgehogs – a talk on hedgehogs was held in Calstock Arts. Pete Thompson to be invited to talk to the next meeting.

Groundswell – possibility of gathering key people together and holding a festival to raise awareness of environmental issues.

The Willow Tit project is complete with 50 boxes having been made by REACH and disseminated to 10 sites.

Andrew has plenty of yellow rattle to distribute.

Reducing Impact

Meetings held with the Tamar Catchment Partnership, South West Water and Hansons Aggregates – useful to continue to put pressure on big corporations and have a better understanding of the work practices at the quarry which appear very good.

A meeting was held with representatives from Natural England and the ECE Committee to find out more about the fish pass at Gunnislake- this was useful as there was felt to be a better understanding of the need for the pass. However, there is much more information to consider and the access during the construction period and the actual construction of the pass remains a concern. A planning application is due to be submitted in the next few weeks.

Richard and Phil attended a local energy plan conference. Richard reported that it was more like a scoping exercise, but there was positivity that plans that had been put in place under the previous council administration were still being followed – or had not been shelved.

Improving health and wellbeing

The Food Action initiative continues to serve approximately 40 families with numbers continuing to grow.

7. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

To recommend to F&GP £3000 is put in the ECE budget to continue the current level of activity: attendance at conferences; use of consultants with expertise advice; publication of professional publicity materials; increase the amount of training courses offered to raise awareness and suggest actions to help environmental issues. Proposed: Richard Newton Chance, seconded: Andrew Brown – unanimous.

Documents in Appendix

Notes from liaison meetings

Next meeting: Working Groups – Thursday 30-11-2023, 1900

Signed: Date:



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE – NOTES FROM MEETINGS HELD (AGENDA ITEM 7)

Minutes of South West Water Liaison Committee held on Friday 13 October 2023 via Teams

Those present were: -

CALSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL (CPC) MEMBERS:

Richard Newton Chance (Chair of Environment Committee)

Alastair Tinto (Calstock Ward Member)

Andrew Brown (Harrowbarrow Ward Member)

Clare Bullimore (Acting Clerk, *minutes*)

SOUTH WEST WATER (SWW) REPRESENTATIVES:

Alan Burrows (Director of External Liaison)

Jess Cox (Operations Manager)

Paul Hoskin (Waste Water Services Recovery & Treatment Area Manager)

1. Water Treatment Works – Capacity of Sewage Network

A presentation was given by Alan Burrows.

Main points:

A plan has been drafted to prioritise spill reduction.

A revamped website will show the following information:

- WaterFit Live information published by DEFRA showing if Storm Overflows (SOs) have been discharging in local areas.
- The 2025-2030 investment programme.
- A Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan which demonstrates a long-term plan to see flood risk managed, improved storm overflow performance, raised treatment standards, maintenance of compliance standards at Waste Treatment Works (WTW) and resilience to climate change risks.

South West Water undertake an independent audit using a company called CSA and have received a pass.

SWW have a range of publicity materials used to raise awareness of sewer misuse (a campaign has been undertaken in Newquay as part of a joint initiative with Newquay Town Council).

Metherell Water Treatment Works (MWTW)

From data analysed MWTW seem to spill for a combined total of 4 months of the year which seems to be far higher than excessive rainfall, which according to EA Gunnislake monitoring data was only above 1mm/15min for 61.5 hours during the same period. Responses to this included:

- Permit standards are issued by the Environment Agency (EA) – permits at this WTW have been compliant.
- They monitor the outflow every day to check compliance with permits, this is checked by random sampling.
- No sanitary failures have been recorded since 2019.
- The CSOs do not measure volume or dilution which could make a big difference to the impact spills have on water quality.
- Different parameters are set for different CSOs, and these parameters are set by the EA, not SWW.
- Metherell WTW has dry weather flow of 1.8l/sec from flow to treatment - maximum flow 6ltr/sec.
- 1342 CSOs 33-35% of which don't spill at all.
- E coli is not monitored and wouldn't be unless a bathing water was affected.

A plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State outlining the CSOs that require improvements and a timeline for such work. Until this has been approved by the Secretary of State no details will be discussed in case there needs to be modifications made (the Secretary of State is due to comment by the end of October 2023).

Planning Objections – Calstock Parish Council

It was explained that CPC have resolved to object to any new build that requires linking to the sewage network because it does not appear to be able to cope, based on the spill data. Alan reminded people that SWW are not statutory consultees on Planning Applications and people do have a right to connect so there are constraints as to how effective SWW are in planning applications.

2. River Pollution

CPC applied for the Designated Bathing Water Status which was turned down. Jess reiterated that the EA are responsible for monitoring river quality.

Richard asked if under the new section 82 requirements, SWW and CPC can work together on monitoring the quality of the river upstream and downstream of WTWs. It was suggested that the CPC contact Westcountry Rivers Trust who are running the CaSTCo (Catchment Systems Thinking Cooperative) project, which SWW were also supporting.

3. Potential Co-operation

SUDs – there are some plans underway for schemes to dissipate pollutants prior to them entering the watercourses. Alan offered to be a point of contact to find out what other plans are already in place from their asset management team, but this is potentially a project to be worked on.

Clare will liaise with Charlotte Bacon about publicity materials about misuse of sewers and leaflets, possibly using the Newquay campaign as a basis and fliers can be sent out.

4. Date for Next Meeting

Timescale for next meeting – January 2024 (to allow time for the plan to be approved by the Secretary of State and for the WaterfitLive website to be fully up and running with the river CSO data included).

Tamar Catchment Partnership Meeting - 23/8/23 – Notes from RNC

It's all about the funding

Ben West Country Rivers Trust - working on it for years - Chair
Simon - farm side for WCRT - Stoke Climsland project - James Coumbe
Holly Berkeley Devon Wildlife Trust
SW lakes Charitable Trust - contracted out from SWW the use of the lakes - who funds them? Burrator etc
Emma SWW - Upstream thinking specialist
Nick Westcountry Rivers Trust.
Stephen Draper Tamar AONB
Becky FIPL. AONB
Theo Plymouth City Council
Rob EA
Diane Castle - Yealm estuary Catchment Partnership

Rob - 2022 evidence on catchment data explorer
Upgrade to ENCRAT - preloaded data - natural capital of the catchment
£6.5m bid from Plymouth - new horizons project - marine and ocean
Yealm £930k from DEFRA bid for species survival
Mentioned enforcement making a dairy farm spend £1m on a new slurry tank at Chapmans Well

Upper Tamar Lake - improved from bad to moderate - lot of enforcement on a positive basis, nitrate exclusion zone
Mainly farm run off causes the algal blooms
Climate change exacerbates all of this. Weather events affecting farm management badly
Basic Farm Payments Scheme 35% less this year making farmers turn to ELMS alternatives (when finalised)

Woodland creation in the Tamar Catchment - Nick Donohue. - Deer Meadows Chasty

Riverscapes Partnership- restore 100k ha nationally with 25k km of rivers and streams by 2030 - DEFRA funded - Nature for Climate funding
Nick employed to help landowners access the grants
Tamar, Fowey, Torridge and Taw - collaboration is key all under WCRT
Planting woodland to buffer streams and rivers - suits the landscape as well - boggy primeval woodland - use leaky dams to buffer run off
10m buffer zone of trees around streams reduces nutrient run off by 60%
need to leave marshy bits where it makes sense to do so
Why not natural regeneration? Not quick enough - may need specific planting - working pragmatically with land owners - so commercial aspect - bio-diversity argument - real problem with tree guards though EWCO - English Woodland Creation Offer FC grant
Forestry Commission run the scheme - massive influence - and dictate the techniques used - including plastic tree guards!
Need a Hectare to get into the scheme
WCRT does decide which areas are suitable for woodland - conversation with landowners suitable species - climate consideration - Nick works out how much grant
must consult Devon Biodiversity and Historical environment and County Councils
Tends to project manage schemes to help landowners - people need help with planting advice

Riparian design - see slide

Conversations with Forestry Commission - local woodland officer tends to support against national FC which is more bureaucratic

Planting December to mid February -

Could put leaky dams in our streams - use willow stakes - can get funding - fish passage - needs to be done properly

Net-gain sites? Nov Biodiversity Net Gain sorted - lots of similar funding schemes

Sheep wool for mulch

South Devon Scheme - see slides

Woodland Creation - Trees for Climate fund - DEFRA funding for capital, maintenance and additional payments - more adaptable

mix of 3 different schemes

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest scheme - vision: equitable and inclusive, resilient and pioneering

Dartmoor, Tavistock and Tamar E Bank - Ashburton and Okehampton

Does access to woodland affect biodiversity? Yealm project trying to answer that.

Agro forestry and silver pasture - get paid for trees in fields - but can increase yields of conventional crops

Community tree nurseries - based around schools?

Capital grant £10.5k /Ha

Maintenance £4k Ha

Additional:

Equitable £2950 Ha

Resilience £5.3k Ha

Pioneering £1.5k Ha

Community aspect very strong

Will fund 25% of a project up front

Forestry Commission better than we think. Woodland Trust

Nurseries - non-commercial nurseries don't require certification - community nurseries on NT land

See the LNRP for Cornwall for equivalent schemes to Devon's

S106??

Copse in a Box from More Trees

Orchards - AONB funding

Hanson meeting - 21/9/23 Notes from RNC

RNC, DK, JW, CB

They want the meetings to be larger than just us:

Hanson - Mike Brown - china clay - operations mgr. Alex Hemming landscape architect, James Hynes - planning issues, Dave Jenkins - quarry mgr - here for 20 yrs

David Adams - Local Community CIC

"The group's principal aim is to 'provide an information exchange between Hanson and its key stakeholders and local communities to facilitate balanced discussions and help to ensure that Hanson UK's interactions with local communities and stakeholders are conducted in a constructive and transparent manner'. Its core agenda will include updates on current operations as well as future land and mineral plans, plus details of feedback received and environmental information." Hanson

ToR to be sent out

Opportunity to discuss matters to do with site operations

3 mtgs a year

8/2/24

13/6/24

14/11/23

Our agenda:

Health impacts of silica dust, monitoring of reach and penetration into habitations especially in dry and hot weather when people have their windows open:

4 categories of dust - over 10microns

Nationally - agriculture 8.3% 4.6% mineral products association (pointed out there are a lot more farms than quarries!)

health risk is in the tiny stuff - respiratory silica - hazard -

Risk - no study to show there is a problem outside the quarry boundaries (their testing points are on their boundary)

pick up at next meeting - will show results of monitoring that they do

road dust - they do spend a lot of money on sweeping and damping

will look at monitoring in houses to reassure people

Chilsworthy WTW - is the water discharge from the quarry exacerbating the problem? How is the chemical content of the discharged water monitored and controlled (Cu, Sn, As etc):

Pipe discharges into the Tamar picking up Chilsworthy WTW on the way so no. Water that is discharged is very tightly monitored by EA and automatically controlled. Mike Brown says best system at any of their quarries (see below)

What is the content and toxicity of the gas discharges from the tarmac production facility? How monitored?

Get the specialist to talk to us at next meeting

No fumes from bitumen up the discharge stack - only steam and CO2

bitumen to the tanks discharge - and from loading from the bins - not toxic but may be cause of smell

constant monitoring happens

Noise from 24 hr working and 06.00 starts - any mitigation possible?

lots of night activity in tarmac plant caused by highways demand

night working demand le

They would need more specific information about the noise - 6.30 first load in the crusher

4 loads an hour from a 50 ton dumper

All the noisy plant is enclosed to reduce noise levels and dust

Current levels of extraction and activity levels (see below). Traffic on Quarry Road and Delaware road - how can we help control? They ask can we get speed cameras as traffic levels up by three times since they went in on A390

At Batscombe - Hanson funded a reduction in speed limits - may put in a PA for an new light controlled crossing when concrete plant moves

Mike Brown briefing:

All major players in the industry are foreign owned - Hanson = Heidelberg - German

emphasis on involvement with the community - interested in recycling - circular economy - 30%

reduction in co2 per tonne by 2025 - Heidelberg lead on this - buying Mick George - circular economy specialists

Hanson name to go next week - Heidelberg Materials from then on

aim to be a leading sustainable business - first net zero in our sector

Want more diverse workforce

Carbon capture and using hydrogen as fuel source - net zero by 2050

Hingston good at recycling waste

Very heavily regulated -

Bio diversity net gain - key to operations - all sites have BD action plan

Target 15% of surface area dedicated to nature - most hitted 30%

Concentrating on reducing water consumption

Renewing the transport fleet - hybrid vehicles

Social value - one day a year volunteering paid for all employees

better engagement with community groups - they do sponsor - within 3 miles of operations

young people - schools an emphasis -not just chucking cash out

400 mental health first aiders in the company

The quarry is 7 benches down - each 15m with the bottom layer being expanded

water cannot be discharged if more than 60 ppm of solids in it. No chemical treatment, no filters just settlement

Arsenic, cadmium, copper monitored

EA more stringent here - legacy of china clay industry

automated monitoring - will not pump if above certain levels - set at 53ppm

silt tipped at top of the quarry

Geotechnical specialist who inspects structures every 2 years - designs the tips to make sure they are stable

water from the quarry bypasses the wtw at Chilsworthy
Nothing escapes from the quarry water wise
Quarry runs with 10 people
6 people in asphalt plant
1 in the concrete plant

production process is fully automated
Unusual to have concrete and tarmac on same site
350k tonnes per year - no intention to expand production
Dust is washed as sand and reused - 15k tonnes of actual waste per year
Confident they have 15 yrs - ROMP (planning review) last one 2013 - have planning to 2042. They all run out at 2042 right the way across the country!
2 planning apps may come through - moving the wash plant to East from bottom of quarry
relocate concrete plant - traffic lights

Restoration: Alex - primary aim nature conservation - eventually a big lake with 3 or 4 dry benches as heathland - woodland
Bio Diversity net gain does not apply to ROMPs
Cotoneaster invasion a problem at the top
BD action plan on website - community web page
Minutes of these mtgs will be posted on the website

Arrange site visit if you wish to see operation

Possible sponsorship of the St Annes skatepark?
Skatepark - sounds hopeful - concrete possible for the skatepark if we can get them involved in the process. MB said he will definitely consider it.

They are very keen on contact with careers advisers in schools - recruitment is a real issue attracting people is a real problem.