



Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group

Held on 23rd March 2022 at 6.15pm

Present: Samantha Roberts, Sheryl Birtles, Councillor Stuart Bostock, Jeremy Herbert, Samantha Taylor, Andy Challinor, Jon Barnes, Mark Betteley, Iain Clarke, John Garrett, and Sarah Standley-Johansen

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Councillor Stephanie Wedgewood

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The working group discussed the appointment of a chair with Jeremy Herbert nominating John Garrett due to his experience and knowledge.

Resolved: It was agreed that John Garrett would be appointed as chair and Jeremy Herbert as Vice Chair.

3. SCENE SETTING

Samantha Roberts informed the group that back in May 2019 Cheshire East committed to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2025. Members of Nantwich Town Council followed suit by discussing climate change and in November 2021 declared a Climate Emergency. The Town Council committed to setting up a working group to tackle climate change,

Samantha highlighted to date that the Council had already started making small steps including introducing a plastic-free policy, purchasing an electric van, changing waste collection contractors to ensure that most of the rubbish is recycled, changing all Christmas lights to LED and recently implementing a cycle to work scheme.

The group moved to introduce themselves and share why they had committed to the working group:-

Andy Challinor, stated his passion was for the environmental side of climate change including conservation and flood management, and that he had studied in this area for 6 years.

Iain Clarke, Assistant Principal at Reaseheath College over the land-based curriculum areas and overall college responsibility of sustainability. He studied Agriculture, has been an organic farmer and still practices vegetable farming. He has a passion for anything green, carbon reduction and has just penned the draft of the Reaseheath Sustainability strategy.

Jeremy Herbert, started with Friends of the Earth as a teen, and has over 40 years' experience. He is involved in several projects and campaigns in the town including Sustainable Nantwich.

Jon Barnes, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, a business membership organisation. They represent businesses and have been key players in smarter ways to travel campaigns. He said the Chamber of Commerce can be a crucial element in educating businesses on climate change and have excellent communication channels to pursue this.

Mark Betteley, born and bred in the town, Mark has stacked up over 25 years volunteering for Nantwich In Bloom. Not only does he have a passion for making the town look good, but he has been pivotal in bringing planting forward and looking at sustainable planting, pollinators, and other environmental issues within the group. Mark also has a keen interest in rewilding.

Samantha Taylor, studied Marine Biology and conservation and now volunteers for Surfers Against Sewage and Sustainable Nantwich. She also has valuable connections with the RSPCA Stapeley Grange having been a past volunteer.

Sarah Johansen, has a wealth of experience to bring to the group. Sarah holds Master of Science in Climate Change, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and has over 13 years' experience developing, analysing and evaluating issues such as climate change, sustainable development and resilience.

Councillor Stuart Bostock, as a representative for Nantwich Town Council, Stuart also is involved with Nantwich In Bloom and Sustainable Nantwich. He has seen many changes over the years and is passionate about climate change.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Samantha Roberts brought to the attention of the group the Terms of Reference that had been previously circulated. She commented that a few amendments had been made by Nantwich Town Council, but these had been made to ensure the group could set realistic targets in relation to budgets. Samantha also advised the group that she would circulate the Councillors Code of Conduct and ask that members of the working party follow the guidelines.

Resolved: The Working Group agreed the Terms of Reference.

5. WORKING GROUP PROGRAMME

Samantha Roberts opened up discussion with members about their opinions on how the group should progress and often they wished to meet.

Jeremy Herbert commented that the group could consider key areas to focus on such as Transport, Energy Use, Business and Green Space. He also commented that the group should look at where they are, what is currently being done and what the group wants to achieve.

Samantha Roberts shared with the group details of how she was trying to establish the Town Council's carbon footprint, through tools from Cheshire East Council, but welcomed ideas from the group if they had more experience.

Sarah Johansen suggested developing an initial outline template, possibly a word document with an end goal, table of contents annotated with bullets. She offered her experience and assistance with developing this.

Iain Clarke suggested getting case studies to see what businesses are doing to reduce carbon emissions and Jon Barnes suggested that this was an area the Chamber could assist with.

Samantha Roberts highlighted to the group a document from Weymouth Council, which she believed was very interesting and felt that the group could do something similar and agreed to circulate.

The group also discussed the value of literacy training or similar workshops.

The group highlighted that several activities were already taking place and that it may be valuable to have documentation of these. Samantha Taylor suggested an interactive document that all members could update and offered support setting this up.

The group discussed meeting availability and felt a mixture of online and face to face meetings would work for the group.

Samantha asked the group to confirm that in line with GDPR that they would be happy to share email addresses.

Resolved:

- a) Samantha Roberts to work with Samantha Taylor and Sarah Johansen to establish a template/initial document to start working from.
- b) That Meetings would be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6.30pm
- c) GDPR consent forms and policy would be issued to all members to complete

6. NEXT MEETING

Resolved: The next meeting of the Climate Change working group will take place at 6.30pm on 20th April.
