



**Minutes of the Feering Parish Council Environmental Working Group
held virtually on Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 8.00 pm
via Zoom (meeting ID: 839 7352 0833)**

Present: Cllr C Dobson [CD] (Chairman)

Cllr S Reed [SR]

Cllr. K Evans

Members of the Working Group: 6

034/2020 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

No apologies given

035/2020 To elect a secretary for this meeting

Suzy Shand [SS] elected

036/2020 Declarations of Interest

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the Agenda.

No pecuniary interests were declared.

037/2020 Agree minutes from the previous meeting

Cllr. Reed proposed. Seconded by EC

038/2020 Public Participation Session

The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present. A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed.

No members of the public present.

039/2020 Guest Speaker Cherry McKean from Eco Colne and Halstead

Cherry McKean from Eco Colnes & Halstead explained how the group requested their councils to declare a Climate Emergency. Cherry had shared literature including the declaration that was sent to the Council's by the group. This was circulated to the members of this working group beforehand.

An update on the other projects the Eco Colnes & Halstead group were given.

040/2020 Climate Emergency Declaration Request to Feering Parish Council

Members of the group were in agreement that this should be raised with the Parish Council and discussions took place on the various potential issues regarding Feering Parish Council declaring a Climate Emergency.

- It was recognised that some councils can do more than others.
- There maybe budgetary concerns with things such as tree planting and cycleways.
- Setting a budget may come later once we know the various projects needed.
- Should we be asking the Parish to be carbon neutral by 2030 as Eco Colnes & Halstead proposed or should it be 2050 in line with government proposals?
- Potential ways of reaching our target included adding solar panels to Feering Community Centre, Cycleway linking Earls Colne, Coggeshall and Kelvedon/Feering.
- How we ensure that Feering's Neighbourhood Plan addresses the Climate Emergency Declaration with well worded policies.
- How we approach our targets? How do we audit ourselves?
- Infrastructure for the funds needed. Make sure funds raised goes back to a specific area, example of funding from Hook Norton, better utilise funding streams and working with local businesses. Build a group/community green wish list. Ask for community support and utilise public opinion and feeling.

- Start with a community questionnaire to provide concrete evidence for funding streams and support. Look at various topics including infrastructure and an incredible edible scheme (plant fruit trees and a herb garden that the community can help themselves to) and get support for our initiatives.
- A valid point was made that we need to celebrate and share what we have already achieved.

Action: After the working groups agreement to the Climate Emergency Declaration it was agreed that Cllr. Dobson would make a formal proposal to Feering Parish Council that they Declare a Climate Emergency at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to discuss how the Neighbourhood Plan Committee can incorporate the Climate Emergency into their policy writing at the next meeting on 13th July.

Action: Cllr. Sandum, Cllr. Dobson and DR to celebrate what we have already achieved on social media and in the Parish Magazine.

Action: Cllr. Sandum to ask Cllr. Abbott for his help with tree planting.

Action: Cllr. Dobson to look at putting a community survey together for discussion.

041/2020

Plastic Waste: Reduction and Recycle

i It was agreed to that it would be helpful to put together a Terra cycle locations and recycling point map for the Parish Council website including Tera Cycle points in Coggeshall, Glebe Gardens bottle bank and other various recycling points around with a focus on keeping them within the Braintree District if possible.

Action: Cllr Dobson to prepare a list and Cllr Reed to design a google map.

042/2020

Carbon Footprint – Green Energy

i How can we encourage people to look at their homes and make them more efficient.

ii Green energy initiatives from energy providers.

August's Parish Magazine article to be about quick and inexpensive energy saving ideas for the home with the help of local EPC assessor with follow up articles on environmentally friendly ways to heat the home.

Future ideas include a guest speaker on green alternatives for the home. Maybe do webinars.

Action: Cllr Dobson to prepare and submit the articles.

043/2020

Green Infrastructure

i Public Rights of Way (PROW).

ii Walking & Cycling.

Promote local walks – PROW committee looking to re-do the Parish Council's walking map and hopefully get it online. It was agreed to look at the website www.widenmypath.com where you can add suggestions. It was pointed out the widening of the A12 will have implications for PROW.

Action: All to have a look at the Widen My Path website.

044/2020

Biodiversity Net Gain

i An update on the playing field ideas from Haskett. – No update received.

ii Community Woodland/Orchard ideas. New tree planting planned for the Playing field. Wild flowers, community herb garden and fruit trees discussed for Bridge Meadow.

Action: Cllr Dobson & Cllr. Sandum to chase up Haskett and try other landscape architects.

Action: EC to discuss donations with various businesses including Perrywoods.

Action: Cllr Dobson & Cllr Evans to talk to residents at Bridge Meadow to gain their support for the project and request Parish Council permission as it is their land. Cllr Dobson to contact Kings

seeds for support and donations.

045/2020 Food Waste

It is recognised that 50% of food we produce is wasted. What can we do as a group to make people aware. As a group we can promote the Olio App. In the meantime we can use the Facebook Group to advertise and promote the app.

Action: Cllr Sandum and DR to look at promoting the Olio App on Facebook.

046/2020 Litter

Great British Spring Clean to be re-organised for September with a view of getting regular litter pickers. The date will be subject to Covid 19 rules.

Naming and shaming the worst brand offenders would be a key aspect going forward.

Action: Cllr Dobson to organise Parish Council Litter Pick for Sunday 20th September. Cllr Sandum to find out how Kelvedon's volunteer Litter Pickers operate and how far they cover.

Action: DR to look at the naming and shaming of worst brands through Feering Plastic Free.

047/2020 St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Fair 2020

With the current Covid situation the Christmas Tree Fair is questionable but we could make use of Susie's Eco bricks.

Action: Cllr Dobson to contact Church closer to the time of the fair.

048/2020 Items for the next agenda

Tree Planting

Litter Picking Group

Bridge Meadow

Plastic Free Community

049/2020 To agree the date of the next meeting

Next informal meeting: Tuesday 28th July 2020.

Signed

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Christa-Marie Dobson

1st December 2020