

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held online via Zoom on Monday 8 July 2024 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr W K Wood
Ms J Moore (St Peter's School)
Mr P Fletcher (Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton)
Mrs K McDermott-Darley (Budleigh Community Workshop Trust)
Mr M McGlade
Mr R Wiltshire (Otter Valley Association)

Mrs J E Vanstone (Town Clerk)

CC/62 Election of Chairman

Peter proposed, Bob seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mike be appointed Chairman.

CC/63 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C M Cunningham, County Cllr C Channon, District Cllr C Fitzgerald and Mrs C James (Clinton Devon Estates).

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis and Cllr J Tresidder (East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council) were not present.

CC/64 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2024 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

Bob the name of the local lady who undertook the beach cleans. Peter said quite a few local residents undertook beach cleans!

CC/65 Action Plan

Members reviewed the current plan:

Natural Environment

No new sites for tree planting had been identified. All agreed that aftercare was vitally important.

Mike added whenever Budleigh Salterton Town Council (BSTC) was involved with tree planting, Members made sure the correct species were chosen.

The ownership of the various allotment gardens had been ascertained:

- Greenway Gardens – Clinton Devon Estates
- Frewins – house-owners
- Area to the south of Greenway Lane – Clinton Devon Estates

Community Actions

Tree to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee had been received and planted, however it had died due to lack of attention. A replacement had been acquired. This action will now be removed.

Online tree mapping will be considered, starting with the trees managed by East Devon District Council (EDDC).

Rewilding The Green. There were some newly planted wildflower areas which looked good. Peter said that yellow rattle was vital to keep certain grasses in check and wondered if EDDC were aware of this; Jo will pass this information on to the relevant officer. Jo will forward a copy of the cutting plan to group members. Jo will also contact EDDC for an update on the idea for a QR Code trail.

The path along East Budleigh Road should be widened to encourage safer cycling. Jo advised this subject was to be discussed at the next meeting of Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group.

Education, Communication and Influencing Behaviour

Mike said that Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan would need to be updated at some point.

The Local Plan was still in consultation. There had been a good response regarding the proposed changes to the Green Wedge between Bedlands Lane and Knowle.

Community Actions

Mike explained that BSTC was going through these actions.

He also said that it would be good to get back on track and organise a Sustainability Event; the Climate Team at EDDC would be invited to take part. Mark wondered if such an event could be held at Bicton Park as it would be good to get them involved with the Group; he also suggested asking Bicton College to take part in any events.

Community

Mike said this was another area which needed further work.

Community Actions

BSTC was working with the OVA to install Swift nesting boxes on the Public Hall.

It was suggested to add information links to the Town Council website; this is more sustainable than printing a leaflet!

Purchasing, Supply and Consumption

Mike advised that nearly all the lights in the Public Hall had been changed over to LED with just the Stage Lighting to do. He understood nearly all the town's Christmas lights were LED.

Water butts could be installed to capture rainfall which could be used to water the planters; unfortunately the Town Council does not own any land around the Hall so this may prove difficult to action.

Mark wondered whether water butts could be installed next to the planters on Fore Street.

Community Actions

New CA were suggested:

- Contact Shop Budleigh and Seachange to see if shops could be encouraged to have a water butt somewhere.
- All households should be encouraged to install a water butt. Mark thought it would be good to make it a requirement that all new homes had water butts and storage tanks.
- Apply for Plastic Free Town status.

Water Supply and Flooding

The previous Group had taken steps to start up a Refill scheme in the town but it hadn't had a lot of support from the businesses. The new Group had been revisited this and some progress was being made with help from Shop Budleigh.

A water fountain was being installed at the Public Hall and when the Steamer Steps toilets were refurbished, EDDC will be asked to install a fountain there as well.

Mike advised that the Shop Budleigh had reintroduced the Budleigh Bag.

Transport

Mike reported that the Exmouth & District Community Transport Group were looking at purchasing an electric bus but the introduction was slower for commercial vehicles; in addition, the costs were somewhat prohibitive at present.

BSTC CIL Committee was looking at the possibility of installing better bus shelters around the town. The two outside the Public Hall had been swapped over and had sedum roofs.

The cycle path across The Green should be extended for safe access to St Peter's School.

EV Charging Points had been installed at Rolle Mews Car Park and Lime Kiln Car Park.

Community Actions

Mike advised that Co-Bike/Co-Car had ceased trading. It was agreed to reword the CA that if a new company came forward to run the operation, BSTC will re-visit this.

Low Carbon Development

Mike said that BSTC was just a consultee but would continue to encourage new developments to have greener solutions.

Community Actions

Find out what happens to the grass cuttings from The Green and investigate a community compost heap.

A suggestion for beehives to be set up on The Green. Mike will speak to local beekeepers for their input. If not possible, maybe residents could be encouraged to house a hive.

BSTC is encouraging the use of hedgehog gates and had supplied a box to St Peter's School. Bob asked if they needed hedgehog houses; Jemima said they already had a good population of hedgehogs at the school, so they didn't need any houses.

Energy Supply

Installing solar panels on the Public Hall; Mike said there was a new Committee Chairman, so this idea could be revisited at some point. He said there was a lot of work being carried out on the Public Hall at the moment and felt residents should also be encouraged to make changes to their own homes.

EV Chargers on the High Street; a good idea but difficult to implement as there were not any suitable locations.

CC/66 Water Pollution/South West Water Issues

Consideration was given to what action the Group could take regarding the current issues.

South West Water (SWW) officers were visiting the town on 12 July between 2pm and 5pm and it was great opportunity to put across any concerns.

Mike advised that District Cllr H L Riddell had met with SWW officers and he then updated the Group on the short term plans for the town.

It was agreed that capacity is a major issue. Jo advised that SWW cannot refuse an application for a connection to its network and this was causing issues across its entire network, not just in the immediate vicinity.

SWW should be asked if increased rainfall had been factored into its future planning.

CC/67 Update from Previous meetings

- Plastic Free Status. Jemima said that local lady, Sue Glover, had applied for the town to become plastic free. BSTC needed to resolved to become plastic free and lead by example. A Steering Group will be formed; Jemima said she was happy to represent the school.
- Disposable Barbecues. Jo read the response from the EDDC Beach Safety Officer, Pete Blyth. It was agreed that some sort of information leaflet could be created to encourage better practices and summarise why they should not be used – outline environmental and health & safety reasons.

- Tree Mapping. Jemima said that logistics made this quite difficult. Jo will contact the EDDC Tree Officers to see if a list is available which could be the starting point of any exercise.

CC/68 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Mark asked if BSTC could consider holding an Environment Information Day; eco-companies could be asked to attend so residents could find out what was available to them.

CC/69 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday 23 September 2024 at 6.00pm.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

DRAFT