

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Environment Sub Committee was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 9th January 2020.

Present: Councillors M Baker; P Brown; J Cole (Vice-Chairman); B Luckham; S McAdam (Ex-Officio); T Shrapnel; and K Webb (Ex-Officio).

In Attendance: Mr John Davies.

26. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Diaz, C Doyle, S Gifford, V Hufford and S Sweek (Chairman). In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Councillor J Cole, chaired the meeting.

27. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

28. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Environment Sub Committee meeting held on 10th October 2019 (M3). It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve and adopt these minutes and they were duly signed by the Vice-Chairman.

29. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

A member of the public indicated that they wished to speak, and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk's Note: Cllr McAdam arrived at 18:07

Mr John Davies informed Members that as a member of Population Matters, he was keen to get involved with the work of the Environment Sub-Committee. He shared his concerns regarding population growth and its impact on the environment. Members noted that the committee already had plans for its upcoming projects, but noted that they would get in touch with Mr Davies if any future projects would benefit from his expertise.

Members thanked Mr Davies for his contribution, and it was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

30. **ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS UPDATE**

Clerk's Note: Cllr Baker arrived at 18:13

The Corporate Officer gave a verbal update on the following:

- Refill scheme – the paperwork had been signed and sent off to register Huntingdon to run a Refill scheme. Once the necessary resources had been received from Refill, plans would be made for an official launch event (a plastic free fair).
- Facebook group – a Facebook group had been set up and was ready to share. The group would be used to share the activities of the Environment Sub-Committee, as well as providing a place for residents to share ideas on becoming more eco-friendly.
- Friends of the Earth '20 Actions' – Members had before them an annotated copy of the Friends of the Earth '20 actions parish & town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency', showing HTC's progress on these action points. There were many points that HTC had already completed or started work on, as well as further areas to consider.
- Town Hall hirer terms and conditions – the Town Hall hirer T&Cs were being amended to encourage hirers not to bring any single use plastics in during their hire. HTC was also in the process of scheduling a recycling waste collection for the council, to allow more of the waste generated at the Town Hall to be recycled.
- Town Centre recycling bins – HDC would be installing recycling bins in Huntingdon High Street. Appropriate placement for the bins was currently being decided due to the new bins being larger than those they were replacing.

31. **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS - HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

Members had before them a report from Friends of the Earth regarding Huntingdonshire's performance on tackling climate change and areas for improvement. It was noted that many of the areas for improvement were more targeted at the District Council, but there were areas the Town Council could consider, such as increasing tree coverage.

It was noted that in order for the larger changes, such as better insulated homes and use of eco-heating, to take place, planning policy changes would be needed at both a national and district level. Members questioned how to encourage HDC to act, and it was noted that this would be covered under Item 32 – Climate Action Plan.

32. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

- i. Members had before them Friends of the Earth's 50-point climate action plan for councils to tackle the climate and nature emergency. It was noted that an action plan would be useful in guiding the direction of the sub-committee and the council.
- ii. It was noted that a large portion of the 50-point plan would not be relevant to the Town Council, and was more targeted at District Councils. It was therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to recommend that Huntingdonshire District Council should adopt the action plan.

- iii. While much of the 50-point plan was not relevant to the Town Council, it was noted that there were areas that HTC could work on. It was therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to customise the template plan so it was relevant to be adopted by HTC.

33. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was TBC.

CHAIRMAN