

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Environment Sub Committee was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 13th February 2020.

Present: Councillors M Baker; P Brown; J Cole; C Doyle; S Gifford; V Hufford; P Pearce; T Shrapnel; S Sweek (Chairman); K Webb (Ex-Officio).

Absent: Councillor B Luckham

In Attendance: Mr Chris Jordan

34. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Diaz and S McAdam.

35. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

36. **MINUTES**

Members had before them copies of the minutes of the Environment Sub Committee meeting held on 9th January 2020 (M4). It was proposed, seconded and

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

37. **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.

Cllr Doyle noted that the Town Council should consider purchasing the old Poundland building on the Market Square for heritage purposes. The Town Clerk explained that discussions regarding the building had already taken place, and this would be placed on a future Town Council agenda.

Cllr Gifford expressed the importance of getting young people involved with the council's environmental projects, especially in regards to littering. The Chairman agreed that engaging young people was important, and this would be a priority for the sub-committee.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene the meeting.

38. **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Town Clerk explained that many other councils had terms of reference for their environment committees, to set a direction for the committee to work towards. Members agreed with the terms of reference, and request an additional point be added, stating that the committee will promote and educate the community on matters to do with the environment. It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adopt the committee terms of reference, subject to the agreed amendment.

39. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Corporate Officer updated Members of the following:

- Refill had not been back in touch regarding the Huntingdon Refill Scheme, so it was suggested that rather than using the environment fair event as the launch for the scheme, this was organised separately as a council event.
- The 'Eco Huntingdon' Facebook group had been launched and currently had 86 group members. It was hoped that this would continue to grow.
- A post had been made of the Eco Huntingdon Facebook group regarding Terracycle boxes. Group members expressed interest in the all-in-one box, as well as collections for pet food packaging, coffee pods, crisp packets and cosmetic packaging.
- A new recycling collection would be scheduled for the Town Hall – this would dramatically reduce the amount of general waste produced by the office as the majority could be recycled.
- Conversations were ongoing regarding options for improving the efficiency of the Town Hall, including the possibility of secondary glazing, air source heating, and LED lights.
- The HDC Waste Minimisation officer had been in touch regarding working together on a recycling contamination project. A meeting would be scheduled to discuss moving forwards with this.
- The Estates Team would be trialling an electric mini digger for grave digging.

40. **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH DOCUMENTS**

Members had before them copies of the Friends of the Earth analysis for Huntingdonshire, and 20 actions for parish and town councils documents. Members noted that the documents were useful, and highlighted a lot of the work that was already being done by the Town Council.

Members had previously recommended that HDC should adopt the '20 actions' document as many of the points were more relevant to a District Council, but it was noted that HDC had not adopted this.

41. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Members had before them a draft climate action plan for Huntingdon Town Council, based on the Friends of the Earth template. Members were happy with the draft, and suggested the addition of a public transport strategy – particularly with regards to building a park and ride for Huntingdon. It was

noted that this is something that could be investigated and discussed at a full council meeting. It was also suggested that a separate transport sub-committee should be set up.

42. **ENVIRONMENT FAIR**

Members discussed the holding an environment fair event, to promote recycling and cutting down on single use plastics in Huntingdon. A Member noted that he had attended a similar event in Buckden, and suggested contacting the organisers for advice and contacts. The Huntingdon event was proposed to be held on a weekend in May 2020.

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

The date of the next meeting was TBC.

CHAIRMAN