

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

To: All Members of the Environment Sub Committee

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONSED TO ATTEND**  
a meeting of the  
**ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE**  
to be held  
**VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**  
**Press & Members of the Public**  
**please see note on how to access at bottom of this Agenda**  
on  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020 at 18:00**

**AGENDA**

44. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence

45. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda (see notes)

46. **MINUTES**

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Sub Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (M5)

47. **ADDRESS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

To hear any address to the Sub Committee from members of the public and other members of the Town Council on matters within the responsibility of this Sub Committee

48. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

To receive a verbal update on progress relating to HTC's ongoing environmental projects.

49. **CARBON REDUCTION MEMORIALISATION**

To receive a report on carbon emissions from imported granite for memorial stones at the cemetery and crematorium (attached)

50. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

To discuss projects to be actioned during lockdown.

51. **DATE AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Date TBC



**PHILIP PEACOCK**  
**TOWN CLERK**

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Town Hall  
Market Hill  
Huntingdon  
PE29 3PJ

This meeting will be serviced by the Town Clerk – 01480 410383
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Copies for information to:

The Members of Huntingdon Town Council, Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk.

Notes

A. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

(1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.

(2) A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it

(a) relates to you, or

(b) is an interest of -

(i) your spouse or civil partner; or (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners and you are aware that the other person has the interest.

(3) Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -

(a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;

(b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);

(c) any current contracts with the Council;

(d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;

(e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;

(f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or

(g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

B. Other Interests

(4) If a Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote.

(5) A Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -

(a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Council's administrative area, or (b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT SUB COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Environment Sub Committee was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

**CARBON REDUCTION MEMORIALISATION**  
**Report by the Town Clerk**

**1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 – Members are aware that the Town Council is currently in the process of construction of a new Cemetery and Crematorium, for which the aim is to have this facility as Low Carbon as possible.
- 1.2 - The initial elements to make this facility low carbon, is to install electric cremators and use 'green' energy to power these, therefore making the cremation carbon neutral.
- 1.3 - Traditionally at funerals floral tributes to be made These will generate large amount of compostable waste, which will via an Accelerated Compost, will be composted and used on site. This will reduce carbon emission by not having to transport this waste product off site.
- 1.4 - To continue the carbon reduction theme throughout the Cemetery & Crematorium the question of Memorial / head Stones needs to be addressed.

**2. DETAILED CONSIDERATION**

- 2.1 - Across the UK there is a tendency for families to use imported Granite headstone as a memorial, as opposed to UK produced Granite or other UK source stone.
- 2.2 - By does using UK sourced granite provide for approximately a 500% saving in carbon emissions but there is also the ethical value of traceability and ensuring that child labour and modern slavery practices are omitted from the production process.
- 2.3 - The UK is the second largest importer of Granite in the world, with an annual value of \$181 million, these figures are for all solid granite products, therefore we have considered that an average headstone and base (30"x24"x4" h/s and 4"x30"x12" base) = 4320 cu inches or 2.5cu foot therefore at 168lb per cu foot in weight
- Each set would weigh 420lb or 190.5kg.
- 2.4 - The projected figures for burials and cremations at the new site would be 1,000 per annum. Not all will have a head stone or memorial plaque, but a considerable number will.
- 2.5 - If Huntingdon Town Council adopt a low carbon high ethical standard approach to memorialisation within the cemetery, it will ensure that we achieve the aim of being as Low Carbon / Carbon Neutral

2.6 - To enable this to be enforceable the Cemetery & Crematorium Sub Committee would need to adopt this policy and either put a total ban on imported granite stone for memorials, or to introduce a Carbon Tax fee if families wanted to have an imported Granite head stone – the tax could then be used to plant trees to offset the carbon footprint of the headstone.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 – Members receive this report

3.2 – Members adopt point 2.5

3.3 – Members recommend that the Cemetery & Crematorium Sub Committee adopt point 3.2(2.5) above and implement point 2.6

#### **Contact Officer:**

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Town Clerk  
☎ 01480 410383