

STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY REMOTE MEETING

25 February 2021

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Present:

Councillors:

Cllr Curtis	Cllr J Fradgley
Cllr Coles	Cllr Lee
Cllr Cleeve	Cllr Warren Howles
Cllr Dyer	Cllr Jackson

Clerk: Town Clerk, J Mayes

T Holt, Outdoor Spaces Team.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Approval of Notes from Meeting held on 27 January 2021.

Noted.

3. Review of Climate Change budget to include:

3.1 Bridge Street/High Street redesign project

The Chair noted that there is £10,000 allocated to the climate change budget and asked Councillors to consider whether some of this budget could be used by the Town Council to fund the Bridge Street and High Street redesign feasibility study. Councillors considered the environmental implications of the redesign project, which aims to better control the flow of traffic which will improve air quality in the town centre. Cycling and improved green landscaping will also feature. It was confirmed that part of the project is being funded by CIL monies available to the Town Council and the Town Clerk is in negotiation with WCC regarding a partnership with them on funding, which if agreed, would mean that the funding from the climate change budget would be a short-term measure to allow the project to progress. The funding would be from the 20/21 budget. The climate change budget has a new allocation from April 2021 for the financial year 21/22.

It was Proposed, Seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY agreed to allow £7,000 from the climate change budget to be used to fund the redesign of Bridge Street and High Street project.

3.2 Applying to Green Shoots community fund

The Chair noted that the Green Shoots community fund is financed by WCC and the deadline for applications is 17 May 2021. Applications must be for projects that have not yet started. Separate projects can be applied for, but the total amount is limited to £25,000. Projects over £5,000 require a detailed project plan but funding is also available for projects under £5,000. Councillors agreed that this would be a way of raising funds for projects they wish to do. Cllr Lee noted that he would be able to help with a project application if required before the deadline.

There was a brief discussion about other opportunities for funding and Cllr Curtis agreed to investigate opportunities from the Felix Dennis Trust fund.

3.3 Appointment of a biodiversity advisor

Cllr Warren Howles reported that she had been in contact with Catherine Coton who had completed the detailed report on Gainsborough Road regarding the possibility of undertaking work for the Town Council as a biodiversity advisor. The company who Catherine works for have agreed that this could be incorporated into her working day if she is required and have quoted a competitive rate.

4. Chair's update report.

The Chair noted that WCC are currently updating a policy that will allow community groups to work on small areas of land owned by WCC to plant wildflowers and that the policy should be agreed by the Spring.

5. Wildflower Planting underutilised space.

5.1 SH04 Shottery Top of Gainsborough Road – update on progress.

Cllr Coles gave an update on progress with the site following a meeting with the outdoor spaces team on 16 February. One section of the site has been sown with yellow rattle seed and a sign will be placed to cordon this off to prevent damage to early planting. The plan is to plant a second area as a meadow area and a final area with low growing perennial plants. Residents will be notified about what is happening at the site.

5.2 Update on future sites (Denne Close and Arden Quarter).

Cllr Warren Howles explained that she had met with the outdoor spaces team to review this site and had been in contact with David Elliston at WCC about it. The outdoor spaces team will scarify the site and plant yellow rattle, wildflower seed will be planted next year. Tony agreed to let Cllr Warren Howles know when the team will be doing the work.

The Chair noted that the group can begin to look at the site at the Arden Quarter. The first step will be to get a biodiversity report completed on the site.

6. Trees in Planters Project- Cornmarket tree.

The Town Clerk confirmed that SDC had given permission to put a tree in a planter on the Cornmarket site.

The planter will cost approximately £1,000 and then there is a further cost for the tree and work to site it, including any reconfiguration. Overall a budget of £2,000 should be allocated, with any monies not used returned to the climate change budget for other projects. The Town Clerk noted that Councillors should be aware that landscaping, including the use of trees features in the brief for the redesign of Bridge Street and High Street project. Tony Holt gave councillors a list of preferred trees for the site and noted that his supplier had recommended Magnolia Kobus, which will thrive in sunlight and has blossom. The Town Clerk suggested this could be a theme using the same tree for other sites when these are agreed. The Mayor asked what happens beyond this tree and whether donations for other trees in other sites would be considered. It was noted that trees in planters could possibly be a future income stream for people who wish to have a memorial tree. The Chair noted that the redesign project will suggest other places where trees could be placed in High Street and Bridge Street. It was suggested that the planter should include a plaque to explain what the tree is. It was agreed that Tony Holt should arrange for planter to be made. Cllrs agreed that the planter should be treated but not painted white as this will require more maintenance. The tree is likely to be Magnolia Kobus once a check has been made on the benefits of this tree for insects.

7. Communication.

7.1 Update on discussion with Hedgehog Friendly Towns – verbal report Cllr Cleeve.

Cllr Cleeve reported that she had been in discussion with Hedgehog Friendly Towns, who are working on an article for the Bridging the Gap newsletter. The main issue for the group now is the ramp in the paddling pool on the recreation ground, placed to help hedgehogs get out of the pool but which keeps getting damaged. The Chair agreed to check with Cllr I Fradgley on his progress with changing the ramp to a concrete one as it is in his ward.

7.2 Update on development of website page on climate change.

Cllr Warren Howles reported that the Website, Newsletter and Social Media group are investigating costs for setting up a page on the website that will inform residents about climate change issues and give them information on the projects the Town Council is involved in.

8. Any Other Business.

8.1 Update on What's App Group – Cllr Warren Howles.

Cllr Warren Howles noted that the What's App group is running well. She highlighted an issue raised about the river island by the tramway bridge becoming eroded. This is an issue to pass on to the River's Trust.

Cllr Coles asked if the group would be responding to the private members bill on the Climate Ecological Emergency. She agreed to circulate information on the bid to members of the group. The Chair requested that the bill be added to the Town Council agenda for discussion on a response.

8.2 Stratford in Bloom – update on grant for Sheep Street.

The Chair noted that there is a possibility that the Town Council may take over the planting of the troughs at the entrances to the town from Stratford in Bloom. A further update will be given at the meeting on 17 March.

9. Dates for future meetings.

Wednesday 17 March at 4.30pm

Wednesday 5 May at 4.30pm

The meeting ended at 16.11.