



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate

Date: Wednesday 29th May 2024, 6pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green, Corinna Huxley, Pat Makinson (joined at Item 7), Anne-Marie Nixey (joined at Item 7), Tony Ovenden and Trevor Shonk.
Resident: Eddie Gadd.

Also in attendance: Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer – Minutes).

ELECTION OF A CHAIR

RESOLUTION: The Chair for the ensuing year will be Councillor Tricia Austin.

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR

RESOLUTION: The Vice-Chair for the ensuing year will be Councillor Tony Ovenden.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Albon, Hetherington, Hudson and Wing and residents Phil Shotton and Michael Foley. There were no other apologies.

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.

CARBON SAVING IMPROVEMENTS AT RADFORD HOUSE

David Green presented a report to the group explaining that Radford House is and will be our greatest producer of carbon, therefore it needs to be fit for purpose. The report detailed changes that could be made by the Council to help make Radford House more carbon efficient and to save money. David included a comparison to Newark Town Hall to show what they have achieved with a listed historic building opened for public use.

RESOLUTION: To recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to consider the report with the recommendations.

ACTION PLAN

Dean and Tricia gave updates on the Action Plan. As a new Council year has started the Action Plan will be reviewed and rewritten as per new objectives and projects.

Dean had produced an infographic showing the Climate Change Task Groups history and progress. This will be used in promoting the group's efforts and will act as a milestone on the website for residents and the public to view, along with additional documents and information available on Climate Change. Members of the group congratulated Dean on the excellent graphic and hoped it would be shared widely.

The focus of the coming year would largely be on continuing the projects and initiatives already started, including:

- Publicising Grants available via Thanet District Council, such as the Home Energy Grant Scheme;
- Publicising Big Green Week and other opportunities to highlight climate and sustainability issues to residents and businesses;
- Working on the Highways Improvement Plan to push Kent County Council for a 20mph zone in Ramsgate and engage with them about making the town more pedestrian-friendly;
- Continue with the Repair Café and Town Shed;
- Plant more trees and hedges and promote the food growing;
- Promote the new coastal water fountains and the Refill Scheme;
- Work with the Pie Factory and Pilgrims Hospice on bike repairs and upscaling furniture;
- Build on Tony's work on conserving historic building materials and look for opportunities to undertake similar projects.

Tricia stated that the Council has given the group a budget of £7,500.00 and £3,800.00 has been awarded through a grant from SEK Group to help.

RESOLUTION: Dean and Tricia to work on the new Action Plan. To be brought back to the next group meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 31st July 2024, 6pm – 6:45pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:55pm.