



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Thursday 9 March 2023, 3pm

Present: Councillors; Austin and Green.
Residents; M. Foley and A. Stevens.

Also in attendance; Mr D Williams (Digital Communications and Marketing Officer - Minutes)

IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIR, THE VICE-CHAIR (COUNCILLOR GREEN) IN THE CHAIR

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Huxley and Wing and J. Dawes, D. Shotton and P. Shotton (Personal Commitment), Councillors Crittenden, Makinson and Nixey (Work Commitment).

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 Thursday 9 December 2022 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.

The task group reviewed the list of actions and received updates that were set out in the minutes, with the suggestion that some of these to be followed up.

Councillor Austin informed the task group that Kent County Council have won a substantial amount of government funding for tree planting across Kent and are appointing a set of coordinators to work with local councils and community groups and schools, particularly planting in school grounds. Anna Ritchie has one of those roles, it is hoped she will be the person to work with us in future. Councillor Green informed the task group that Kent County Council are not prepared to finance planting of trees but are prepared to work with local councils in regards to where street trees can be planted in Nethercourt, if we can finance it. Kent County Council insist on their staff doing the planting, which can prove quite expensive, around £300 - £400 a tree.

A. Stevens updated the task group, that it depends on the use of the vehicles as to what you can buy. The Council would be looking at two vehicles, one for close range and one for further distances. It was suggested that an electric vehicle would be suitable for short range distances and a bigger vehicle for further distances, which for a short amount of time could be a diesel vehicle on a short term lease. A. Stevens to

liaise with the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer on the miles used by the Council vehicles.

M. Foley updated the task group that the end of life for Westwood Cross is 2030.

The Neighbourhood Plan actions are to be left for the new council, after the May elections.

Councillor Green contacted Barry Lewis regarding the Margate Twenty is Plenty campaign and is awaiting a reply. Councillor Green also stated that he has asked Kent County Council to redo the traffic management survey for Nethercourt, since the implementation of the 20mph zone, to find out if it has made a difference, this survey will start in April 2023.

Councillor Green stated that the air quality monitor in St Lawrence, is up for discussion as there is an item on TDC forum to review it.

Councillor Austin and Green stated that the On Street Parking Fund is spent by Thanet District Council and Kent County Council working together through the joint transportation board. Councillor Austin stated that both Thanet District Council and Kent County Council have reached an impasse to hold the meeting due to meeting logistics.

Councillor Green stated that the road safety document that was to be created has linked in with the Highways Improvement Plan, so this matter should be referred to the Planning and Infrastructure Committee.

A. Stevens stated that Small Businesses have until the end of the month to register and have a free Carbon Audit undertaken of their business.

RESOLUTION:

- 1. Councillor Green to continue pursuing the tree planting in Nethercourt, working with Kent County Council.**
- 2. A. Stevens to liaise with the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer on the miles used by the Council vehicles to give a carbon cost, so a decision can be made. This to be taken to the next Full Council Meeting. M. Foley to contact the electrical engineers to find out about the EV charging points at Radford House.**
- 3. Councillor Green to return with more details from Barry Lewis regarding the Margate Twenty is Plenty Campaign.**
- 4. Councillor Austin to check with Morgan Sproats at Thanet District Council, if the Air Quality Improvement and Monitoring is still being reviewed.**
- 5. Ramsgate Town Council to offer to host the Joint Transportation Board meeting, so the meeting can take place.**
- 6. The Planning and Infrastructure Committee to work on a document for increasing road safety within Ramsgate that is to be sent to Thanet District Council and Kent County Council. This document will be run past A. Stevens for input regarding road safety for cyclists and runners. This document to be put before Council to be agreed and then distributed by the Town Clerk to the relevant authorities.**

7. **The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to liaise with the Town Promoter to publicise the free Carbon Audit for Small Businesses by A. Stevens by the end of March 2023.**
8. **The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to work with A. Stevens when the Ramsgate Town Council Carbon Audit is updated to include 2022.**

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer read out the report sent in by the Chair, D. Shotton, regarding traffic calming and management, street trees and the Ramsgate Society initiative.

RESOLUTION: The task group noted the report.

RAMSGATE CLIMATE ACTION DAY

The task group received a report from D. Shotton on the Ramsgate Climate Action Day that will be organised by the Ramsgate Society on 18th June 2023.

RESOLUTION:

1. **The Climate Change Task Group recommends to Full Council that Ramsgate Town Council supports this event.**
2. **The Ramsgate Society can apply through the Ramsgate/Events Fund to help finance the event.**
3. **The Radford House Events Coordinator to be contacted to check for availability and for comments on the event.**

RESOLUTION FROM COUNCIL – CONSIDERING IT ALTERNATIVES

The Climate Change Task Group considered different IT alternatives for Councillors and Staff.

A. Stevens stated that the carbon offset of buying a laptop was around 300kgCO₂e. A. Stevens had recently found a company that refurbishes and upgrades laptops, so they have a lower carbon footprint.

Councillor Austin raised concern around security of using devices and personal devices for council business. The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer stated that two factor authentication (2FA) would be brought in for the new council in May 2023, so regardless of device the information was secure.

RESOLUTION:

1. **A. Stevens to send the details of the laptop refurbishing company to the Digital Communications and Marketing Officer.**
2. **The Digital Communications and Marketing Officer to write a report for the next council on the two options of IT alternatives i.e. buying equipment for all councillors or using personal devices. This would detail security aspects, queries surrounding FOI requests and the training that would be involved.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

No date set. (To be decided by new Council after elections).

The Chair closed the meeting at 3:55pm.