



Tiverton Town Council

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Minutes of the Climate Change Committee held on Monday 22nd February 2021, commencing at 6pm

Present: Cllr's A Hendy (Chairman), Cllr S Bush, Cllr P Hill, V Pelaou, F Armstrong, S Chapman, A Walker and C Pearson.

In attendance: Mr J Vanderwolfe (Town Clerk) and Cllr E Wainwright (MDDC)

40	Apologies Apologies had been received from Cllr A Perris, Cllr B Holdman, and Ms T Pointing.
41	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th November 2020, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record.
42	Matters Arising There were no matters arising.
43	Democratic Period Ms S Chapman stated she had sent an additional item in for inclusion on the agenda, but noted it was not there. The clerk informed her that this had been received after the publication of the agenda, and that there were rules regarding the minimum period permitted for issuing the agenda. He suggested that she sent any item in at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.
44	Tree Team Update The Tiverton Tree team, comprising of six main members, have managed to meet up both physically (when restrictions have allowed) and virtually. At the beginning of the season, mid-2020, the TTT were optimistic about how much could be achieved in the forthcoming season (Autumn/Winter 2020-2021). Lockdown restrictions have meant that we have had to be flexible with our projects and plans. <u>Seed collection</u> The main accomplishment of 2020 was a seed collecting exercise where the

	<p>TTT provided seed-dropping stations throughout Tiverton, including at Morrison’s, the Pannier Market and at Liznojan bookshop. These seeds were then collected by the TTT and planted. Volunteers and supporters were encouraged to collect seeds (acorns etc) to plant themselves. The TTT provided an instructional video of how to do this as well as a virtual demonstration meeting.</p> <p><u>Scoping of the Morrison’s site</u></p> <p>Funding was secured and permission to plant on a Mid Devon District Council site behind Morrison’s has been granted. The TTT have visited the site and made provisional plans for planting and nurturing a community orchard. Some fruit trees have been purchased with the funds, however it is likely that plans to plant the initial tree selection will be postponed until next season (Autumn/Winter 2021/2022) due to the ongoing lockdown restrictions. The TTT are keen to gain the support of volunteers and the Tiverton community in this planting project.</p> <p>Future projects:</p> <p><u>Trees for Gardens</u></p> <p>This is a project to give free trees to those with gardens in Tiverton, providing planting advice and offer suitable trees for the spaces available. Collectively, this will be the ‘Tiverton Garden Forest’ and will work to encourage individuals to plant trees and learn the fundamentals of how to do this successfully.</p> <p><u>Maintaining TTT trees</u></p> <p>It was the intention to involve volunteers from previous years’ largescale planting projects in maintaining the trees planted. Again, with the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to gather large groups for this exercise. We will endeavour to organise a working party to be responsible for this in due course.</p> <p><u>New Tree-planting Sites</u></p> <p>The TTT have been contacted by several landowners and have sourced areas with potential for largescale tree planting and community tree planting, such as at Palmerston Park in Tiverton. These will commence in future when restrictions are dropped.</p> <p>Cllr Hill asked the clerk whether councillors had been asked to provide suitable locations for planting trees, and was informed that a request had been circulated; but with little response. Several councillors felt that there were areas in their own wards that would be suitable, and agreed to look into it. Sally Chapman made the point that the neighbourhood Plan had identified all the green spaces within the parish.</p>
45	<p>Climate Change Committee Update</p> <p>Recent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding obtained to decarbonise Mid Devon leisure centres (around £312,000) • An additional ~£38k obtained to bring in the skills to help us develop our climate action plan, and associated work • Extended the solar array on our recycling centre • 'Climate Conversations' happening ad hoc to increase connection and information-sharing in Mid Devon (NB -- making engagement a key

workstream in revised climate action plan)

- Solar Together scheme -- invitations to Mid Devon residents
- Input to Devon Carbon Plan process
- Replacing boilers in Council stock

Current work / discussions:

- New Mid Devon climate website soon to go live (see below)
- Reviewing energy procurement options
- Hydroelectric scheme
- Possibility of bringing funded rapid charge points to towns in Mid Devon (I'm in discussions)

Future work / discussion includes:

- Jason Ball, our new Climate and Sustainability Specialist, is starting on March 1st. Regular quarterly reports against our targets from then on.
- Jason to review and deepen our Climate Action Plan, with updated costings and timelines
- Carbon literacy / climate training for members and officers
- Review and revise our procurement processes, to reduce Scope 3 emissions.
- Discussion about a community climate / biodiversity fund
- Roll out tree-planting work beyond Tiverton

Devon Carbon Plan:

This is a Devon-wide piece of work which aims to put Devon on a path to a clean, healthy and sustainable low-carbon future. MDDC's Environment PDG discussed the plan at length in its January 12th meeting, and feedback was passed on to Cabinet, and ultimately was shared as part of the consultation on the plan. The plan was open for consultation by partners as well as residents. Some sections of the plan are more controversial than others, and a Citizen's Assembly is planned in summer 2021 to explore and find a way forward on these areas. The plan will then be updated and revised, and a second public consultation will follow. Some areas of the plan are more relevant to Mid Devon than others, and will help inform and revise our own Climate Action Plan, e.g. on topics like the built environment, economy, and energy supply.

Mid Devon Climate website:

This will go live in the Spring. Its purpose is to 1) share updates on MDDC's carbon reduction work; 2) provide good information to residents, businesses, members and others; and 3) signpost opportunities, events and local groups that are working on the climate and biodiversity agenda locally and regionally.

A new post has been created by MDDC to deal with environment Issues. This person will shortly join the team.

Cllr S Bush stated that he had not received an update regarding the Hydro schemes. Cllr P Hill then stated that he had visited the MDDC planning

	<p>website this morning and noted that whilst some of the Environment Agency queries had been responded to, additional points had now been raised. Cllr E Wainwright stated that MDDC had put funding for this scheme in the budget. Cllr Hill stated that he had visited a similar scheme on the River Dart near to Totnes; and had found it fascinating. Sally Chapman provided a link to Our Place Our Planet, which is at the end of the minutes.</p>
46	<p>Plastic Free Tiverton Clare Pearson reported that twelve companies in Tiverton have signed up to be plastic free and they would like Tiverton Town Council to support the scheme. The town clerk explained that the town council would be unable to go plastic free as such items as chemicals arrive in plastic containers. Clare replied that that was fully understood and that to qualify you only needed to identify three non-recyclable items to be eligible. She would like one councillor to be on the plastic free Tiverton steering group. The town clerk felt that MDDC could improve on the business recycling side of their business. Cllr Wainwright stated that MDDC were having trials around recycling and the frequency of waste collection in the near future. Cllr Hendy felt that the town council was already trying to reduce the amount of plastic being used at the town council. It was agreed that Clare would forward some additional information on the scheme to the town clerk for distribution. Mrs Pelaou stated that she would forward some examples of where the factory had reduced its use of plastics. Cllr Wainwright informed the meeting that MDDC were working with the supermarkets in an effort to getting them to reduce the amount of plastic packaging.</p>
47	<p>Sustainable Tiverton Sally Chapman stated that sustainable Tiverton had for some time been looking at having a physical presence within the town and were pleased to announce that MDDC had agreed for them to use the former retail shop in Market Walk. They would be working with a group called community builders and would be pushing a number of initiatives including energy efficiency. She stated that her group would welcome new members to the group. She stated that they were looking at a significant partner to join them at this location to make it viable. Cllr Bush felt that this project would fit in well with the town centre regeneration plans.</p>
48	<p>Next Meeting</p>

[Our Place Our Planet](https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/resources-pack-for-town-and-parish-councils/)

<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/resources-pack-for-town-and-parish-councils/>
[New breed of local food halls in UK towns offer grub and a hub | Commercial property | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/feb/21/new-breed-of-local-food-halls-offers-grub-and-a-hub)

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