



GLASTONBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Climate & Ecological Emergency Advisory Committee (CEEAC) held on April 24th 2025 at 7pm	
Councillors Present	Cllr Lindsay MacDougall (chair), Cllr Serena Roney-Dougal, Cllr Mike Smyth, Cllr Indra Donfrancesco
Apologies	Luke Harrison, Gareth Lowe, Laura Wolfers
In Attendance	Ramona Belcher, Susannah Clemence, Alakhrupa Harper, Joe Joseph, Melissa Taylor (clerk), Christopher Cooke, Dan Britton, David Sawtell, Philippa Rampton, Richard Lawson, Vanessa Becker-Hughes
Public Participation	Members of the public spoke. The subjects raised included: River Pollution.

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

61. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The JANUARY meeting minutes were reviewed, considered a true record, and signed by the Chair.

62. AFF UPDATE: MENTORING FOR FOOD GROWERS AND ALLOTMENTEERS

Melissa and Ramona have been exploring the possibility of arranging training and/or mentoring for new allotmentees and food growers. Bon at Bridies farm is interested, and shared details of their Tuesday volunteer days from 11am till 4pm, which will give people the opportunity to gain skills in growing. It was reported that allotmentees are already supporting each other, but it would be good to be able to refer people to Bridies Farm. Ramona suggested that we need to review how other areas are tackling this issue, and properly evaluate what people need. She reported that she is attending the Land Workers Alliance on Saturday, to call for a sustainable food system. It was suggested that some land on a hill is needed to grow food for the town, that will not be at risk of flooding. Melissa will look at funding options for each of these ideas, and will continue the conversation with Ramona.

63. TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Thanks to the Step and Ride funding, a pilot running with a bus stopping at the Avalon Marshes Centre, details on their Facebook page. The more it is used, the more likely it is to continue. The bus group is still working on getting a Castle Cary bus. They didn't get the GWR grant and are waiting for the results of two other applications. £14,000 has already been contributed by GTC.

The crossing campaign is still going. Serena is helping GTC to write a letter to county. It was suggested that they first need to survey the public to find out if there is sufficient public support, and then carry out a scoping exercise.

A cycle path has been blocked by large concrete blocks installed to prevent caravans parking close to the sewage works. Susannah has complained 3 times to the council. Town Deal Robert Richards funds is being spent on improving walking and cycling routes. Greenways work to paths, but destroying some trees. Susannah remarked on the large numbers of school children who regularly walk along a very narrow pavement, along Street Road, from Strode College and St Crispins.

64. PRESENTATIONS from David Sawtell and Dr Richard Lawson - Wessex Water pollution

Two presentations about river pollution from water company sewage releases and from farm waste. And the need to renationalise the water companies. (Joe suggested an alternative of a non-profit could be easier.) It was suggested that we should stop paying water bills, since one third goes to shareholders. We can sign the pledge here <https://takebackwater.uk>

More information here: <https://localaction4water.blogspot.com>

There were emotional calls for action to protect wildlife, including eels, and restore the quality of our fresh water. A sub-committee was formed and will meet on May 29th 7pm in the Council Chamber. Melissa will send out an invitation to:

Joe Joseph, Mike Smyth, Alakhrupa Harper, Indra Donfrancesco, Lindsay Macdougall, Phillipa Rampton, Dan Britton.

65. POLLUTION LEAFLET

Serena shared the latest draft of the leaflet on river pollution, and flooding, which will be printed with Ian Mutch's Clothe Home leaflet on the reverse. Printing and distribution should be covered by the remaining Climate Adaptation fund, plus CEEAC funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Proposed by Cllr Roney-Dougal, seconded by Cllr Smyth and agreed unanimously:

That Glastonbury Town Council's CEEAC funds be used to pay for the Pollutions and flooding leaflet to be printed, and to be distributed by Royal Mail to homes in Glastonbury.

66. NEWSLETTER & STALL

Susannah shared that she will stop running the stall and producing newsletters, after one more. It was suggested that we find other ways of sharing information, and that a permanent place.

67. REPORT from Climate Emergency & Resilience Officer

Due to the late hour, Melissa suggested that her report be sent by email.

68. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were shared.

69. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 24th 7pm in the Council Chamber.

SIGNED:	DATE:
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Date:

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