



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Climate & Ecological Emergency Advisory Committee (CEEAC) held on January 30th 2025 at 7pm	
Councillors Present	Cllr Lindsay MacDougall (chair), Cllr Lokabandhu, Cllr Serena Roney-Dougal, Cllr Mike Smyth
Apologies	Luke Harrison, Gareth Lowe, Laura Wolfers
Absent	
In Attendance	Ramona Belcher, Susannah Clemence, Alakhrupa Harper, Joe Joseph, Ailsa Masterton Sue Pearson, Melissa Taylor (clerk)
Public Participation	No members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects raised included:

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Luke Harrison, Gareth Lowe, and Laura Wolfers.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

50. PRESENTATION FROM JOE HURLEY, RENEWEV

Joe introduced RenewEV, which supports small scale not-for-profit community energy projects. He spoke about their work with Avalon Community Energy's Town Deal project. They have identified a suitable site for a community owned solar farm. The risk of flooding on the site make it unsuitable the Enabling project as a site for the non bricks and mortar community. The 10 acre site is agricultural land 3b, and 2.5 acres of solar panels is limited to 1.23MWp, due to the local grid capacity. This could be expanded in the future if the grid capacity is increased. The rest of the land will be used for biodiversity net gain. It is expected to produce 1,340,000kWh, equivalent to powering 495 typical homes, and saving 210t CO₂ per year. The panels will be supported on small piles, impacting only 5% of the land, and will have a lifespan of 40 years. Raising the mounts by 300mm will avoid flooding issues. The planning application was submitted in Aug 2024, and the screening opinion in Dec 2024. Planning surveys are ongoing, and the public engagement and consultation events will start in March 2025. This will take the form of a four-hour drop-in public information event inviting the community to find out more and ask questions. There will also be a leaflet and online surveys. Any further suggestions to joe@renewev.co.uk

51. PRESENTATION FROM KRISTA FELEK, BURNHAM & WESTON ENERGY

Krista presented information about Burnham & Western Energy's Home Energy Saving Advice service. Expert Energy Ambassadors will visit homes, free of charge where household income is less than £31k or on benefits. They will offer advice, support and practical measures, as well as help applying for grants and setting up energy suppliers. The service is fully funded by Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) and Somerset Community Foundation.

Ideas for spreading the word about this service include:

- Visiting local groups and events
- Citizen's advice, food banks etc
- Leaflets, website
- News item on GTC website
- Susannah will email Krista to ask for more leaflets for the Tuesday stall
- St John's Church community cafes on Mondays
- Soup Kitchen at St Benedict's church on Thursday
- Library
- Advertisement and/or articles in the Oracle and Nub News

Email Melissa with any more suggestions to pass on to Krista.

More details and booking for the service can be found here:

<https://www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk/home-energy-advice/>

52. RIVER POLLUTION LEAFLET

Cllr Roney Dougal shared a draft of the wording for a leaflet, which still needs design and formatting. Joe suggested that illustration should include red and blue lines differentiating rainwater and foul water, and promised to email information on storm overflow data. Suggestion that more offers should be included as well as water butts: Planting, Rain Gardens. Permeable driveways are a bigger job. These changes mean that the leaflet won't be ready to go out with the precept leaflet. So, to allow more time to do this properly, it will be added to the next agenda.

Thank you to Serena, Rachel and Laura for all their work on this.

The water butts project is still continuing without Laura. There are 7 remaining, which have been moved to the allotments, and future butts will be bulk ordered.

53. AFF UPDATE ON LAND ALIVE CONFERENCE

Ramona asked whether everyone had read the report on the Land Alive conference, and responses were positive. It was suggested that a future event should encourage more of the general public to attend, with more emphasis on allotments and land cooperatives. There is a need for land for food growing with access to the town. Crops not Shops may be acquiring some land. National Trust have started to provide allotments on their land in other locations. An important way to grow food, save money and be healthy.

Ramona spoke about the Spark Somerset conference online. The Food Project is a food delivery and education programme for parents to learn about feeding their children. A discussion about allotments not feeling accessible to ordinary people, and how an education programme for allotments users and gardeners might help. Maybe a mentoring programme where older allotments users teach younger ones. Details of how to apply for an allotment are on the GTC website here: <https://glastonbury.gov.uk/our-services/allotments/>

There will be a Seed Swap event at St Benedict's church on Sunday Feb 16th 1:30 to 4:30pm. It was suggested that CEEAC look for funding to set up a mentoring programme. Melissa has offered to help with this.

54. ACTIVE TRAVEL

There was discussion about two bus projects: a proposed extra bus-stop at the Avalon Marshes Centre – application in progress to Somerset's Wellbeing fund; and a bus to Castle Cary station – third funding application in progress, £210k per year to run, £60-70 per hour, could fund itself by the second year. Both projects need support, but don't want to compete with each other. Joe offered an example of a co-operative rail operator preparing open access services for Somerset and Wiltshire <https://go-op.coop>.

RECOMMENDATION

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

That Glastonbury Town Council supports in principle the two local bus projects: Avalon Marshes and Castle Cary. And that we seek to find funding towards this.

Susannah shared an update on the Safe Crossing campaign. They are aiming to work with Street PC, Strode College and the Town Deal project, all of whom would benefit from safer walking and cycling routes. It's not enough to make one route safe. There need to be safe routes to all locations in and around the town. Some Town Deal money is being spent on creating some new active travel routes. It was suggested that Susannah talk with Jane Sharp.

Serena has asked for the Tor bus to run all year round. Mendip Community Transport have said that they will consider it for next year.

55. NEWSLETTER & STALL

Susannah shared that the stall is going well, and invited others to join her and the Mayor on Tuesday during the market.

56. REPORT from Climate Emergency & Resilience Officer

- The new GTC website is nearly finished, and Melissa has sent updated information to Conor for the Climate and Resilience sections. She invited members of this committee to send her any comments, if they have a chance to look at the pages.
- Katie and Melissa are working on an event planned for September 14th, called Wellbeing Wonder. This will be a community open day with stalls, talks and workshops. Rather than focussing on abstract concepts like carbon dioxide and global climate change, the intention is to connect to people's experiences, and how their lives can be made better.
- "History has shown that when people feel unsafe they seek security – sometimes even at the cost of freedom, reason and morality." This this event will focus on saving money; feeling comfortable and healthy in our homes; feeling safe from the destruction of extreme weather, economic collapse, war, pandemics, the 'other', speaking one's mind. Possible topics include things like local nature friendly food growing and cooking, community home retrofit and energy programmes, jobs, skills and training, mental health support, safe walking, wheeling and cycling, and others, with an emphasis on practical, local, collaborative, respectful

ways to make life better. I would welcome any comments, questions, or suggestions of topics, organisations, and activities that we could include. Plus I would invite members of this committee to take part.

- Unfortunately, the tree planting project planned for Common Moor Field has had to be cancelled. The funders have only just realised that the land is not suitable. “Common Moor Field is located on the edge of the Floodplain Grazing Marsh Priority Habitat area of the Somerset Levels, the largest continuous area of grazing marsh in England. It is also on the deep peat layer.” Tree planting would dry out the peat and consequently be responsible for a rise in greenhouse gas emissions. It may be possible to carry out a peat restoration project on the land in the future, depending on funding.

Honeygar Farm was suggested as an example peat restoration project to look at, and Steve Maws is the contact to speak to. ELMS funding.

- Planned application for Community Buildings Energy Efficiency grant to fund some of the work to the Town Hall.
- Investigating options for replacement EV chargers for the carpark.
- Helped to draft the Land Alive report.
- Produced another update on decarbonisation programme.

Q: Cllr MacDougall asked whether electric boiler are being considered for heating the town hall, as a way to rapidly decarbonise.

A: The summary document on progress to decarbonisation stated that a strategy for a decarbonised heating system is being developed by HGA M&E Engineers. This will consider all options for heating the town hall. Based on a bit of reading, it seem that an electric boiler would be considerable more expensive to run than a gas boiler, although carbon emissions would be reduced by the renewable electricity supplier. PV panels would not help much, as they would generate electricity mainly in the summer, when the heating is not needed. We will know more when we have the report form the experts.

57. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were shared.

58. Date of next meeting

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

SIGNED:	DATE:
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