



GLASTONBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Climate & Ecological Emergency Advisory Committee (CEEAC) held on Thursday April 30th at 7pm	
Councillors Present	Cllr Serena Roney-Dougal (Chair), Cllr Emma King, Cllr Lindsay MacDougall, Cllr Mike Smyth,
Apologies	Ramona Belcher
In Attendance	Susannah Clemence, Alakhrupa Harper, Joe Joseph, Gareth Lowe, Ailsa Masterton, Melissa Taylor. Members of the public: Sidika Petterson, Laura Sorenson, Tracy Wilcox
Public Participation	Chris Black: Solar panels for the roof of the Red Brick Building, and link with ACE; Concern about demolition of cottage in carpark, and offer to help with a second opinion on costs of repair;

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ramona Belcher, due to other engagements.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The FEBRUARY meeting minutes were reviewed. A small error was corrected and otherwise considered a true record. A printed copy was not available to sign, but will be signed before the next meeting.

A discussion about the water butts project concluded with a suggestion to restart the work undertaken by Laura S and the Repair Cafe in response to Glastonbury’s Climate Adaptation Plan.

46. FINANCES: To receive and consider a committee budget report and make any associated decisions regarding any expenditure not otherwise listed on the agenda

A summary of the committee’s income and expenditure was reviewed:

Earmarked funds for 2026/27	(remaining from the 2025/26 budget)	656.33
Financial Assistance Budget 2026/27		1750.00
		2406.33

It was previously agreed that this committee would cover expenses for the Living Brue event, and Melissa will make sure that invoices from Vanessa are paid.

Susannah requested that this committee supports the Bus Partnership group by helping to pay for the printing of the new bus timetables.

RESOLUTION: proposed by Cllr M. Smyth, seconded by S. Clemence, all in favour.

That this committee contributes £300 to the Bus Partnership towards the cost of printing bus timetables.

47. ACTIVE TRAVEL & TRANSPORT: A361 update

Members of the A361 committee were not present, and no updates were received.

48. ACTIVE TRAVEL & TRANSPORT: Report

The Active Travel Forum is a busy group and recently helped with the Red Brick Building clear up. They are working on improving the accessibility of walking and cycling groups through town. The Trainlink group are disappointed with the response from Somerset Council, which has ignored the work carried out to consult with the community and find the best route. Instead of a direct route via Pilton and Shepton, Somerset Council have announced a longer route via Street: a 16 seater bus, running at regular times 7 days a week, but may not be as attractive as an alternative to driving. Susannah requested that GTC supports the original plan, and Cllr Roney-Dougal offered to take the report to full council once she has it.

49. ADAPT: Tree group update

The Tree group has met with James Chapman who is helping to identify possible locations for trees. The next meeting will look at land ownership, which trees could go where, and maps of underground infrastructure.

Some of the recommendations will relate to management of existing trees and hedges. Melissa will find out who is responsible for tree maintenance, and Cllr Smyth offered to pass on guidance. Susannah suggested that the cleared area around the Red Brick Building would be suitable for tree planting. Serena responded that the Climate Adaptation Plan was for the centre of town, but that the outskirts would be looked at in the next step.

Susannah suggested a 'Shady Carpark' category for the In Bloom competitions, to encourage supermarkets to plant more trees.

50. PROTECT NATURE: Living Brue working group update

Cllr L MacDougall and Cllr M Smyth have met with a Dorset Councillor about their River Charter. They have had local scouts doing river testing for over 10 years. The Living Brue group are hoping to create a River Charter for the River Brue. Possible cost for testing at 5 locations would be £2,500 and Cllr Smyth would like to request this sum from GTC. There is a lot of support from the community for protecting and exploring the river, and a newsletter will be sent out soon to the contacts gathered at the event.

RECOMMENDATION: proposed by Cllr M. Smyth, seconded by G. Lowe, all in favour except for one abstention.

That Glastonbury Town Council contributes £2,500 to facilitate testing of the River Brue for one year, through the Living Brue Group.

51. INFLUENCE: Newsletter & Stall

Susannah reported that there is no new Newsletter yet, but she is running the Eco-Stall again, which for now will be mostly bus timetables, and will include the Living Brue newsletter.

Initial:

Date:

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52. INFLUENCE: Co-operative Councils Innovation Network

Joe Joseph spoke about GTC's vote to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, with their seven co-operative principles adapted for councils. It is the fastest growing network in local government, and Glastonbury is the first council in Somerset to join. A group are working towards an event during International Co-operatives Day and Fortnight.

As a first step, this committee may wish to adapt our Terms of Reference to include the CCIN structures and principles. Melissa will talk with Conor about how much we are able to change the ToRs, and Joe will draft some suggested changes. A new draft will be considered at the next meeting in June, and agreed for the new council year.

53. PROTECT NATURE: Discover Nature Fortnight

Melissa will share details of leaflets of events that have been planned, some of which will be held in Glastonbury. Cllrs MacDougall and Smyth offered to take some posters.

Ideas for an art and photography competition "Nature in the Pavement", celebrating GTC's ban on Glyphosate.

54. REPORT from Climate Emergency & Resilience Officer

- Planning application for Town Hall decarbonisation works: Solar panels, secondary glazing etc, working with project managers and architect to try to get this discussed at Somerset's Planning committee.
- Decarbonised heating system, working with project managers to progress this work.
- Distributed a counter disinformation guidance document for councillors and officers – will share this with the committee and public.
- Planning Emergency Plan meetings with businesses and communities.
- Held a screening of the National Emergency Briefing film on April 10th – will share press release and list of concerns from audience.
- Step Ride & Thrive steering group meetings
- Discover Nature fortnight – will share posters
- Briefing note for CCIN and application submitted
- Working on developing a flexible exhibition that can be used to display information and inspiration
- Working to develop a strategy for grass cutting and weed management, following GTC's new responsibilities for additional land around the town, and to work with existing weed control methods not using Glyphosate etc. – Cllr Smyth offered to advise on which species can be left and which need to be removed.
- Planning another Wellbeing & Wonder event for September 20th – will form a working group for this and include Cllrs MacDougall and Smyth.

55. ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER MATTERS

- A discussion followed about who would like to be part of this committee from the next meeting when membership is renewed. The benefits of working outside of this committee and council processes includes being able to act and respond more rapidly to ideas, where the need and motivation is. Benefits of being part of the committee includes possibility for larger, funded projects, and with that a responsibility for public funds, which means accountability and scrutiny. This does mean acting more slowly but is an important part of a democratic

system. It was concluded that both forms of activism are important if we are working to address the climate and ecological emergency.

- Cllr Smyth reminded the committee that the provision of allotments is one of the few statutory duties of a Town Council. There are allotment spaces available, and more people need to be aware of this opportunity. If there was a very large waiting list, GTC would be required to buy additional land to provide allotments.

RECOMMENDATION: proposed by Cllr Roney-Dougal, seconded by Cllr MacDougal, all in favour.
That Glastonbury Town Council arranges for the water fountains in town to be repaired.

- Items for the next agenda: plastics collections; drinking fountains; explore other options for protecting the land around the Tor without WHS; restart of water butt project.

56. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 25th 7pm in the Council Chamber.

SIGNED:	DATE:
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