

Glastonbury Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Glastonbury Town Climate Emergency Group

Meeting held by Zoom on 25th June 2021, 7.00pm

PRESENT: Christine Prior (Chair), Rachael Clyne (Minutes), Serena Roney-Dougal, Melissa Taylor, Lindsay McDougall, Susannah Clemence, Joe Joseph, Sue Barnet, Laura Sorensen.

APOLOGIES: Ailsa Masterson, Angus Lavery

| SUBJECT | COMMENTS | ACTION |
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| | <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion ensued about the lack of minutes being circulated to GTC. Gerard is understaffed. • Led to discussion on how CEG can inform public of our activities. We agreed to post a quarterly newsletter on the Climate Emergency page of the town Council website. Laura, Rachael & Susannah offered to do this. Melissa will ensure its presence. | <p>Laura, Susannah, Rachael</p> |
| <p>Melissa report update.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An e-van has been purchased and is having signs written on it. The group are delighted at the rapid result. • Town Hall Solar panels: a full planning application is being prepared. The Town Hall is a starred Grade 2 listed building, which has higher conservation requirements, so an expert planning consultant has been engaged. They are in discussion with the panel owner. • We are looking for an expert consultant and funding for replacing the Town Hall heating system. • Melissa is developing a purchasing policy for GTC to be in line with Climate and Ecological Emergency requirements. i.e Does this: Reduce? Decarbonise? Protect Nature? Influence? Adapt? • Melissa is working with a Glastonbury GP who helped develop the Green & Healthy Homes project in Frome. • She will draft a document for our feedback, on why/how declaring an Ecological Emergency is important to Glastonbury. • There seems to be a range of grants available for retrofitting homes including: UK.com renewal fund & SCC who are asking for applications. Melissa & Frome's resilience officer are jointly working on two funding applications relation to a proposal for a Somerset Retrofit Accelerator project to build a picture of housing stock and need, and to stimulate the market for such projects. • MDC Community Fund is available for various community and climate emergency projects. • Growing Great Ideas is another funding source which could be considered for mounting a Citizen's Assembly. We discussed the value of a Citizen's Assembly versus a People's Assembly concluding that a Citizen's Assembly can ensure a wider spectrum of the community, plus experts. Unanimous vote in agreement. An umbrella question will be needed. • Sue Barnet suggested that the youth council could help with the Citizen's Assembly organisation and enrol | <p>Melissa</p> |

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| | <p>young people to the idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an aside, Rachael raised the lack of children's facilities. Whilst not directly part of our remit, it is important to enrolling different areas of the community. Sue Barnet says there is a committee actively looking at ways to improve Abbey Park playground. | |
| Bulk solar panels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having agreed to support Mike with advertising, Serena has circulated a draft document of a news release for feedback. This is just to advertise via local news outlets. Next we need to make a flyer with banner and other images for social media and GTC website. Mike Rogers will pay for a banner to hang outside the Town Hall and any paper flyers we want for distribution round the town. Joe asked that as Mike is short on staff for advertising, will he be able to deliver the installations. He was assured that installations were not a problem, but that we do need to help him with the initial advertising. | Serena, Laura, Rachael |
| Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter picker sticks. The Town Council do not have any and it was suggested we could buy some out of our annual grant. There was a discussion about purchasing our own instead of borrowing from Idverde. 10 sticks @ £160. Christine will ask Glastonbury In Bloom if they could buy them as they have funds, and will need them for the July 18th, 10.00-12.00, town clean up prior to the judging. She asked for volunteers to help with this. Youth Council did clean up at St Edmund's Hall and might be interested. NB this year's competition includes Best Pollinator and Wildlife Garden category. Serena encouraged everyone to enter or pass to others, so we can establish this as a category. | Christine |
| Hedging Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melissa says grants are available but the forms are complicated. Requirements are potentially too restrictive. Joe said that most grants seem to be aimed at stock-proofing rather than natural rewilding which has different requirements. He will consult with other farmers to clarify. Joe suggested GTC provide a grant application adviser, someone with enough lay knowledge to support residents in applications. | Joe, Melissa |
| Active travel/low traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serena & Laura attended a MDC Active Travel presentation by a consultant from P.J. Associates at the cost of £20,000, to talk about cycling/walking. His information only suited urban areas and is unsuited to Glastonbury. He had not researched local needs for travelling between villages/towns, and there was nothing regarding disabled access, mobility scooters, or equestrians. Lindsay said he would still be a link to planning policy. Following discussion, Serena offered to arrange to email Kelly at MDC to ask for the Low Traffic group to meet with the consultant in order to present their extensive evidence and findings, so he is aware of our needs. The group voted unanimously in support of this. Laura favours the term Active Travel i.e., walking, cycling. She also said a number of groups are jointly compiling a letter to SCC protesting their repeated lack of response to requests for action/support, despite | Laura, Serena, Susannah |

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| | having voted to support it 11years ago. | |
| Allotments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion about the need for a 3rd allotment. Some on the Town Council, who are opposed, mention lots of abandoned plots. Serena contacted one of the allotment managers, and was told that the allotments are regularly checked and there are none abandoned. They do regular checks on maintenance and renters are contacted if they neglect their plot. There are now a total of 42 on waiting lists. • Potential sites are the Town Council's Common Moor field by the Carnival club, or perhaps Parson's land which is part of the Town Deal Fund proposal. | Serena |
| Peat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serena circulated Gerard's letter from GTC opposing any further planning applications for peat extraction. She considered it an excellent letter. | |
| EV Charging points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serena notes that the EV chargers in the Abbey car park have no signage and are trickle chargers, when visitors clearly need rapid chargers. Also there are no E-bike chargers available. She will report this at the next GTC meeting. • Melissa can apply for a grant for this. • The proposed Town Deal Park & Ride will have E-bike chargers and hire but whilst this has been discussed for the town centre, at present there are no firm proposals. There was a discussion on how we can make this possible. | Serena |
| NEXT MEETING: | Friday July 25th 2021, 7.00PM by Zoom | |