

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

Contact Officer: Candida Mckelvey, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 07895 213820
E-mail: candida.mckelvey@southandvale.gov.uk
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Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk

A MEETING OF THE

Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee

**WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2022 AT 6.00 PM
AS A VIRTUAL MEETING**

The meeting will be live streamed. You can watch the meeting by following this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/SouthandValeCommitteeMeetings>

Members of the Committee:

Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Chair)

Sue Cooper
Stefan Gawrysiak
Kate Gregory
Lynn Lloyd

Jane Murphy
Caroline Newton
Andrea Powell
Leigh Rawlins

Sue Roberts
David Rouane
Celia Wilson (Vice-Chair)

Substitutes

*Ken Arlett
Robin Bennett
Maggie Filipova-Rivers
Elizabeth Gillespie
Victoria Haval*

*Lorraine Hillier
Kellie Hinton
Alexandrine Kantor
Mocky Khan
Axel Macdonald*

*Jo Robb
Anne-Marie Simpson
Alan Thompson
Vacancy
vacancy*

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1 Chair's announcements

To receive any announcements from the chair and general housekeeping matters.

2 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence and the attendance of substitute members.

3 Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4 Urgent business

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent.

5 Minutes (Pages 5 - 11)

To review and agree as a correct record the minutes of meetings held on 7 June and 27 September 2021, and for the chair to sign them as such.

6 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

7 Task and finish group update

To receive any updates from task and finish groups of the committee.

8 Environment Advisory Group - Future Oxfordshire Partnership update

To receive a verbal update from Councillor Andrea Powell.

9 Future items

For committee to discuss potential agenda items and upcoming items for the committee.

REPORTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

10 Greenhouse gas emissions report

For committee to review the annual report to increase awareness of council emissions, and for public promotion of report (report to follow).

11 Corporate plan performance report - Quarter 2

For committee to review Quarter 2 of the Council's Corporate Plan performance reporting and provide any comments on relevant themes to Cabinet (report to follow).

12 Climate Action Plan

For committee to review the draft Climate Action Plan and provide recommendations to Cabinet (paper to follow).

13 Tree planting update

For committee to receive a verbal update on applications received for tree planting on council land.

Patrick Arran
Head of Legal and Democratic



Minutes OF A MEETING OF THE



Listening Learning Leading

Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee

HELD AT 6.00 PM ON MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021

The recording can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiHK9jvhhsM&t=7s>

Present

Councillors (committee members): Sam Casey-Rerhaye (chair), Sue Cooper, Stefan Gawrysiak, Kate Gregory, Lynn Lloyd, Caroline Newton, Andrea Powell, Leigh Rawlins, Sue Roberts, David Rouane, Andrea Warren (sub), Celia Wilson.

Officers

Harry Barrington-Mountford, Andy Egan, Elizabeth Kingdom, Suzanne Malcolm, Candida Mckelvey, Heather Saunders, Chris Trill and Michelle Wells

Guests

Nick Mariner and Kath Daly, on behalf of Chilterns Conservation Board

106 Chair's announcements

General comments on committee remit.

- The committee members discussed the monitoring role of CEEAC in the Corporate Plan, and the number of Cabinet Members in the committee. It was suggested that Cabinet members on the committee could send a substitute member to committee for monitoring agenda items, for good governance.
- It was confirmed that the item raised by a public speaker, on the formation of a National Park, would be considered by officers. Future ideas for agenda items can be sent directly to committee chair.
- Communication with Town and Parish is important.
- Use of task and finish groups are important to keep up the momentum of the committee's work
- Wanting a standing agenda item for future items

107 Apologies for absence

Cllr Jane Murphy sent apologies. Cllr Andrea Warren attended as substitute.

108 Declarations of interest

None.

109 Urgent business

None.

110 Public participation

None.

111 Chilterns Conservation Board

CEEAC members were presented to by Chilterns Conservation Board. The committee members found the presentation and pamphlet illuminating and were impressed by the work done to engage and support farmers, and the creation of networks/clusters.

CCB are working on helping to prepare farmers for environmental land management scheme. CCB wish to seek strengthened support from district councils.

- A member suggested that a countryside survey could be reinstated, as we need to know what is on the land to protect it.
- The Growth Board was mentioned, as they are setting up an environmental group

112 River Thames Champion

Cllr Jo Robb presented to the committee members on setting up a World River Day celebration, to share all the good work happening and all the results of networking so far. There was a long list of contributors that could be involved. A clean-up day was suggested.

Bathing water quality status was being applied for in Wallingford. District to support Town Council, but it's the Town Council's application.

Real-time information on sewage release into rivers was wanted.

There is a Thames Valley River Network – a group of councillors who have met, with a set of guiding principles. Working towards an end to sewage release, working with Thames Water.

Cllr Robb will keep the committee updated on the clean-up day, and she suggested the committee members could undertake investigation into building regulations and planning, and the connection of water companies. What can we implement in the design guide and joint local plan?

Councillors were agreed that there were issues with the infrastructure not being able to handle demands of new housing and climate changes.

It was suggested that more people need to draw attention to the problems of overflowing sewage and overburden of the system. Do we meet with Thames Water?

It was concurred that the Thames Champion was needed and worthwhile.

113 The Development of South Oxfordshire Tree Policy

A strategic policy on planting on council owned land.

- Committee members felt strongly that this was a high-level policy and that they didn't have enough information to comment on content
- When is a tree not a tree – the importance of hedgerows was raised.

- Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) – we tend to know of threatened trees right before its threatened, we need a system that enables us to protect important trees ahead of any threat.
- The members were interested to see how the tree planting policy dovetails with the TPO policy, and whether the TPO policy is fit for purpose in line with this.
- Suggested penalties. Plant a large number trees if a mature valuable tree is felled without permission.
- It was quoted that the House of Commons Climate Change Committee has proposed that 30k hectares of woodland should be planted every year. There is also a Gov target of 300k new dwellings per annum. So, on average 1 hectare of woodland should be planted for every 10 dwellings.
- A task and finish group were suggested by Chair, as there was some discussion about giving the committee members more time to review content.
- Suzanne Malcolm added that this item presented by Elizabeth Kingdom is specifically regarding planting on Council owned land – we currently have no policy for this. Locals want to get to work on this, but a mechanism is needed. Task and Finish is recommended.
- Felt there was no gain in rushing – tree planting is best in winter. Chair suggested that people need time to apply and for officers to process these. Suzanne Malcolm stated that the month suggested for planting was November. Also need Legal process to go through and have it signed off.
- Other councillors saw it as being imperative to bring this forward soon.
- Confirmed that it will be reviewed yearly, including how it links with other policies.

In summary

- Councillors would like the strategy renamed, as it is specific to council owned land. Councillors wish to see the policy wording beforehand to comment via email.

114 Task and finish group update

Retrofitting update – Cosy Homes and OxLEP- useful sessions had. Oxford Brookes, Aspire, and Abingdon and Witney College will be presenting to the group shortly. DEFRA Task and finish group – 5 environment principles of the environment bill – our response went in by 2nd June. We gave constructive feedback on improving the guidance. Suggested an equity principle and a restoration principle. Committee members saw the submitted response. Some felt strongly that the principles had been diluted from the environment bill.

Closed 20.21

The meeting closed at 20.21

Chair

Date

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Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE



Listening Learning Leading

Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee

HELD AT 6.00 PM ON MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting was broadcasted live. You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKgcuOmW-ps>

Present

Councillors:

Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Chair)

Sue Cooper, Stefan Gawrysiak, Kate Gregory, Lynn Lloyd, Ian White, Caroline Newton, Andrea Powell, Leigh Rawlins, Sue Roberts, David Rouane and Celia Wilson

Officers

Harry Barrington-Mountford, Elizabeth Kingdom, Suzanne Malcolm, Candida Mckelvey, Heather Saunders.

Also present:

Councillor Jo Robb and Cabinet member Councillor Andrea Powell.

115 Apologies for absence

Councillor Jane Murphy sent apologies, and Councillor Ian White attended the meeting as a substitute member.

116 Declarations of interest

None.

117 Chair's announcements

The Chair announced that the climate action plan and a carbon reduction plan would be longer-term plans being produced to meet corporate plan priorities. This would ensure that climate action was embedded across the council. The climate action plan should be available by the end of 2021.

Two items that would come back to the standard agenda were:

1. future items
2. task and finish group update.

A joint design guide briefing will happen on 29th September for councillors.

The corporate plan performance had been added to the agenda as a supplement. It had been out in draft form already and had been reviewed at scrutiny committee. Our meetings were now being rearranged to coincide with quarterly reports. These reports should be available six weeks after quarter end. Quarter two could be reviewed in the January 2022 CEEAC meeting.

The biodiversity working group was confirmed to have met once so far for scoping, and Chair would email the committee to inform of progress.

It was confirmed that there were plans to use the information from the Town and Parish Councils forum. Feedback will feed into the climate action plan. This was a potential future item.

118 Urgent business

No urgent business.

119 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 26 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record, and the chair will sign them as such.

120 Public participation

None.

121 South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Policy for Planting Trees on Council Land

Councillors were pleased to see this policy (this had been circulated before for comment). The benefit that trees had on the environment meant that this policy was viewed as very important. They discussed whether the council could, in future, extend this to have influence on protecting trees on private land. Relooking at Tree Protection Order strategy was one suggestion.

Committee were reminded that we had to be guided by legislation. Councillors asked that they be notified as soon as this policy was made public, so that they may help waiting community groups to apply as soon as possible. It was confirmed that this would be publicised. Other discussion was about data collection on trees planted/ felled due to danger / felled due to development and how this could be done and how useful this data would be. Could we ask farmers to measure hedgerow? The definition had not been confined to trees.

Next steps may be added to a "future items" list on the agenda. Chair mentioned research on plastic tube protection for trees – there were downsides to this method, and it may be best to not use them.

Resolved:

To add the tree planting policy as a future agenda item – for next steps.

122 Retrofit Scrutiny Report - Feedback from Joint Scrutiny Committee and discussion

This report was a Joint Scrutiny task and finish group report, worked on by officers and councillors, some who are on CEEAC as well. It had been very well received. Joint scrutiny was keen to have CEEAC's advice, and recommended CEEAC review the report.

There was discussion about lobbying to make the upfront costs of retrofitting more affordable or trying to get more demand by publicising more. Currently, the upfront costs were high. This report had been circulated widely to share the work with other Oxfordshire Councils. The repayment scheme for renewable heating ends in April 2022. There appeared to be no replacement for this scheme. Communications and working in partnership was important throughout the County. One suggestion was whether there could be a member of staff in Planning to proactively provide information on retrofit when people send in applications. The report was viewed as a great example of task and finish work that can help drive policy development.

123 Future Oxfordshire Partnership - Environment Advisory Group

Future Oxfordshire Partnership (previously Growth Board) - Environment Advisory Group update (EAG).

Councillor Sue Cooper updated the committee on partnership work. Councillors should look out for a consultation on an Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) report – a transport and connectivity policy, which should be out for early November consultation. There had been lots of cooperation at OCC – an OCC climate change officer group had been set up, with partnership working across local councils.

124 Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Report

Chair opened this item. A lot of recommendations in the report were topics we were working towards locally – in the design guide, new local plan, corporate plan etc. A local nature partnership was being set up at present. The first meeting will be soon. We will soon report on how we will achieve / deliver these measures. How do we use the PAZCO report? Should we invite experts (those involved in writing it) to speak to us, to help us to focus on what we can do. Where to start?

Discussion included:

Concerns raised about influence of gas/electricity providers not promoting renewable / green energy systems. A lack of training on installing air source heat pumps. Could we repurpose car factories for heat pump manufacture?

Suggestion made regarding launching a green bond – suggest to Cabinet finance member.

Should we invite experts (those involved in writing this) to speak to us, to help us to focus on what we can do. We could ask for advice to prioritise activities (within the limitations of central legislation). What would be within our powers? We could lobby upwards as well. How much of this can feed into our Climate Action Plan?

125 The Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Fund - Exclusion of fossil fuel investments

The Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Fund - Exclusion of fossil fuel investments

Councillor Jo Robb introduced the item. Councillors Casey-Rerhaye and Cooper declared an interest in this item so decided not to participate.

The responsible officer at the pension fund, Sean Collins, will provide a detailed presentation to all districts separately – to be confirmed.

The progress was well received by the committee. Councillor Robb will circulate the details of this item and extra information in an email to the committee after the meeting.

126 Q1 performance management report

The committee considered themes one and three of the Q1 performance management report. They gave some feedback to Cabinet member Andrea Powell and Harry Barrington Mountford and were invited to email with anything further. In general, the committee were in support of more metrics. Some comments were raised that didn't apply to the Quarter in question but will be noted by officers. There was discussion about wanting an update on farmer clusters. Discussed using influence to help get things done (e.g Thames Water sewage output into river which is not in the council's control). No recommendations were made. Going forward, committee may decide to look at two quarters at a time. It was confirmed that they wished to see Q2 in January 2022.

The meeting closed at 19:57pm

Chairman

Date

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