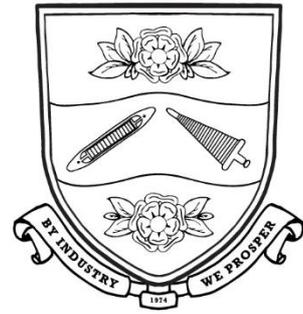


TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Todmorden Climate Emergency Committee with Calderdale Council and Hebden Royd Town Council Held in at the Todmorden Community College, Bridge St, Todmorden, on Monday 24th February 2020 at 10am

Councillors Present:	Cllrs the Revd G Kent and S Patient [Joint Chairs], R Coleman-Taylor, J Williams, A Hollis, M Taylor, G Wood, C Stow and V Stevens.
Absent Councillors:	Cllr T Roberts (appointment) and Cllr N Harvey (work)
Invited Guests:	Mr A Rae
Officers:	Mr J Tweed, Mr J Boom and Mrs S Miles (minute taker).

2020(JCE)001	<p><u>Item 1 Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting</p> <p><i>It was noted that Cllr Roberts was unable to attend because of a medical appointment and Cllr Harvey was at work.</i></p>
2020(JCE)002	<p><u>Item 2 Joint Welcome</u></p> <p>Cllr the Revd Kent welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that he was aware that work had been ongoing regarding the climate emergency in Calderdale and Hebden Royd and that Todmorden Town Council had recently started looking at what they can do.</p> <p>Cllr the Revd Kent asked Cllr Patient to forward the thanks to the Calderdale team who staffed the Community Hub in Todmorden for the aftermath of the flood. Others supported this too, especially the speed of response.</p>
2020(JCE)003	<p><u>Item 3 Introductions</u></p> <p>Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.</p>
2020(JCE)004	<p><u>Item 4 Sharing of Approached and Activities</u></p> <p><u>Focus to Date</u></p> <p>Cllr Patient said that Calderdale announced the Climate Emergency in January 2019 although some activities were already started before then, but the announcement gave the initiative urgency and focus. His Cabinet cross-cutting role started then, and he began working with organisations such as the Youth Parliament, the NHS and Together</p>

Signed Chair:

Dated:.....

Housing. The meetings are public, the next one being Wednesday 26 February 2020 at Halifax Town Hall in the evening. The details of these meetings are advised to town clerks in Calderdale. Calderdale are focusing on five themes – food, energy, transport, biodiversity and communities/people. The Calderdale Cabinet has set a target of net 0% emissions by 2038 with significant progress by 2030.

Cllr Patient said that Hebden Royd announced the Climate Emergency in April 2019. The approach taken there is to educate residents and that a part-time member of staff looks after promoting this on social media.

Mr Boom said that councillors and officers had had a 1-day training event to become more ‘carbon literate’ and that this was led by Manchester University.

Action: Mrs Miles to investigate providing similar training for Todmorden councillors and officers.

Key Considerations for Traction and Funding

Mr Rae said that these are:

- i. We need to focus on all uplands (flood management, restraining carbon and tree planting)
- ii. We cannot solve all the issues by ourselves. We need to keep an eye on timescales as Leeds City Region is due to publish its statement on the reduction of carbon emissions in March 2020. They will be setting a challenging carbon emissions reduction plan. This will give a focus for action and options for securing funding.
- iii. The UK is due to hold the United nations Climate Change Conference in November 2020 (COP26). This will generate a lot of support from organisations who want to get involved in this initiative and could form a kind of ‘net 0 club’. This will provide a momentum for the climate emergency work.

Cllr Patient commented that councils must be mindful of the need to lobby for action around flooding and that it is the most vulnerable/poorest who live in the valley bottom.

Cllr Taylor said that he had been liaising with Pickering Council and that they had taken preventative action without government funding and this has been successful in reducing flooding. The local ‘Slow the Flow’ group had had input from Pickering Council. Mr Rae reported that a flood management group had stated that these measures had had little real impact. Cllr Patient said that the group in Pickering was volunteer run with a limited scope, however, if this initiative had enough funds it could have a great impact.

Cllr Coleman-Taylor said that Todmorden wanted to provide seed corn funding for projects which could attract further funding.

Cllr Wood said that whatever the scale of the community projects they give people a chance to participate in making improvements and a sense of hope and urgency.

Joint Statement for Calderdale Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Stevens said that Hebden Royd were producing a written statement for the Calderdale Scrutiny Committee on 3 March and it suggested that this be a joint statement with Todmorden as it will have a direct effect on the people of the Upper Calder Valley.

Action: Mr Boom will work with Cllr Patient to produce a draft statement and send it to Mrs Miles.

Resolved – The Todmorden Council Development Committee (26 February 2020) will review the draft statement and if supported will refer to the Full Council Meeting (11 March 2020) for ratification

(Note after meeting – Statement was supported by TTC Development Committee and will go forward to the Full Council for ratification.)

Uplands/Drainage

Cllr the Revd Kent referred to the Todmorden Moorlands Policy, which is due to be updated, especially around trees and drainage. If we had a common Moorlands Policy we could use our local knowledge to good effect. We could lobby landowners, including utility companies about bogs, burning heathland, use of sheep etc. Mr Patient suggested that this type of strategic work might be best done by larger authorities, such as Calderdale Council.

Cllr Patient mentioned that he and others, have been invited to meet the National Trust at Walshaw Moor next week.

Cllr Taylor said that before Calderdale existed, the council authorities regularly cleaned out the land drains. This has not happened since 1974 and water runs different courses down the hillside because the land drains are blocked. He mentioned that the capacity of mains drainage in towns is also a problem, for example on Halifax Rd, Todmorden.

Consideration of Impact of Climate Emergency on Local and Neighbourhood Plans

Cllr Patient said that our councils will need to reconsider their neighbourhood plans in the light of the climate emergency. Cllrs Coleman -Taylor and Taylor observed that this would require a pause in the current NP activity.

Cllr Patient commented that the Calderdale Local Plan was currently out for consultation, but it would be helpful to review each site identified for building within the context of climate emergency. Mr Tweed said that the LP is set out in main chapters as required but they can provide design guidance about sustainable urban development with green walls, tree planting and biodiversity. This will not be statutory, but it is as far as Calderdale can go with this.

Action: Cllr Patient agreed to lobby Calderdale members about the LP.

Leading by Example

Cllr Williams said that Todmorden wants to involve and educate the community that making small changes in our everyday lives, such as turning running taps off and switching lights off, walking children to school rather than driving can make a difference towards climate change. This needs to start by Todmorden Town Council leading by example.

Cllr Patient said that Hebden Royd lead from the front also by taking action to remove plastic from the Picture House, using recycled copy paper and recycling this and transport. A member of staff at HRTC uses social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) to spread the word.

Cllr Stevens reported that at the ‘microlevel’ HRTC had funded ‘Slow the Flow’ to map HR and Mytholmroyd so that residents can view their own street and see what activities are available. She said that it was less clear at the ‘macrolevel’ as there is no map of the uplands with drainage. It was unclear who owns the land. Everyone agreed that it would be useful to have a map, but it was likely any such maps will have been discarded in the 1974 changes, although Yorkshire Water may have something.

Resources

Cllr Patient observed that some increased funding was not likely to solve all the problems in an area like Calderdale as it is not a city council or have a university with access to larger funds. The highlight for Calderdale was its community led groups. He went on to mention that in November 2019 Calderdale made a bid for funds from the National Lottery (up to £650,000 for initial ideas and £2.5m for developed ideas). As part of this Calderdale had an open event involving local organisations to collect and build on existing ideas. Out of 600 applications received, Calderdale’s is one of a small number that has got through to the next stage. They are in the process of expanding the application and it is likely Calderdale will submit a joint application with Todmorden Community College by the end of March 2020. The outcome will be known during the Summer.

Locally Sourced Food

Cllr the Revd Kent said that local shops should source local produced food. Cllr Stow reported that the Picture House will source products locally (cakes from Heptonstall). Cllr Williams said that the Lord Lieutenants visit to Todmorden last October was catered for locally with locally produced food). It was acknowledged that the populations within HRTC and TTC are different and that there is significant poverty in Todmorden. Cllr Patient said that there is also poverty in Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale and therefore any approach needs to be nuanced. It was agreed that it was important that the approach should be by example/education rather than blaming.

Cllr Taylor said that there is a potential contradiction in encouraging people to shop locally but then this encourages more cars on the road which would increase pollution.

Energy

It was agreed that there is an abundance of water and wind in the Upper Valley and that these resources could be harnessed for energy. Cllr Taylor mentioned that there are still a handful of water hydraulic powered machines remaining from when the cotton production industry was at its peak, for example the one on Broad Dean Farm. At Gibson Mill, the water was used to power the mill. He also referred to the Archimedes Screw project in Bedford. Some thought that it would be too expensive to harness waterpower and that the incentive had been reduced since the lowering of Feed-in-Tariff payments for solar energy. Cllr Hollis reported that he had researched providing hydroelectricity to the hamlet where he lives but the cost was prohibitive.

Action During Heatwaves

Cllr Coleman-Taylor said that heatwaves are also an issue as there is usually an increase in the death rate which is largely avoidable. We need to find ways to help people, especially the vulnerable by planting more trees/vegetation and opening public buildings, such as churches, as retreats from hot weather. Medical supplies could also be made available.

Air Quality

Cllr Coleman-Taylor also said that problems occur when people burn rubbish outdoors not realising what this does to the air quality. It was mentioned that the government has recently announced that it is acting over wood burning stoves.

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Item 5 Next Steps

a. Cllr Patient suggested that the note of the meeting be reviewed, and a loose action plan developed from this. Mr Tweed proposed the plan could include principles and objectives.

b. Cllr Wood said that knowledge retention is an important issue although organisations find this difficult to do.

- c. Cllr Williams offered to buy recyclable paper cups for meetings
- d. Cllrs Stow and Stevens suggested that the joint meetings be scheduled 2-3 times a year to catch up and share.
- e. Cllr Stevens said that we need to identify concrete ways to change how people live. This has been tried in HR, but it has been difficult to measure this.
- f. Cllr Williams suggested we need to focus on what we can influence and that central government deal with wider more strategic issues. It is a realistic objective to influence local people/organisations to make small changes, such as buying local produce.
- g. Cllr Taylor suggested we might have a register of sources of funding.
- h. Cllr Taylor suggested we involve local businesses with the climate emergency initiative and perhaps larger companies may contribute funds.
- i. Cllr Taylor said in the past, water lodges collected water when it was over abundant, and released it when slowly once water levels had gone down.

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Item 6 Next Scheduled Meeting

To be arranged.