

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk's Office,
Todmorden Community College,
Burnley Road, Todmorden OL14 7BX
01706 548135

townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.uk
www.todmorden-tc.gov.uk



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE Held in the Cockcroft Room, Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 7.30 pm

Councillors Present: Cllr R Coleman-Taylor (Chair), Cllr M Taylor, Cllr J Williams, Cllr C Potter (substituting for Cllr T Roberts) and Cllr A Hollis (substituting for Cllr The Revd G Kent)

Absent Councillors: Cllr. the Revd G Kent, Cllr T Roberts and Cllr P Ripley

Observing Councillors (not a member of the committee): Cllr P Taylor

Officers: Susan Miles Assistant Town Clerk (minute taker)

Members of the Public: Robin Gray (Slow the Flow), Cath Bann (CND), Richard Outram (CND), Robert Baylis, Ginny Harris (Calderdale Green New Deal) and Cathy Gallagher

2020(CEC)019	<p><u>ITEM 1. Apologies for Absence</u> To receive and approve apologies for absence and reasons given to the Clerk prior to the meeting</p> <p><i>Apologies were received from Cllr T Roberts and Cllr The Revd G Kent</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr R Coleman-Taylor and Seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That apologies be accepted for the reasons stated, namely that Cllr T Roberts was unwell and Cllr The Revd G Kent has had a family bereavement.</i></p>
2020(CEC)020	<p><u>ITEM 2. Declarations of Interests</u> To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from members on matters to be considered at the meeting. Officers are required to make a formal declaration about council contracts where the employee has a financial interest.</p> <p><i>None Declared</i></p>
2020(CEC)021	<p><u>ITEM 3. Public Participation</u> To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting. Note: No resolutions can be under public participation.</p> <p><i>6 members of the public present</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr R Coleman-Taylor and Seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous</i></p>

Signed Chair:

Dated: 11 November 2020

	<p>RESOLVED: <i>That members of the public can contribute/ask questions in agenda items as they arise</i></p>
<p>2020(CEC)022</p>	<p><u>ITEM 4. Minutes</u></p> <p>To approve the draft minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee held on 15 January 2020.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr R Coleman-Taylor And Seconded by Cllr M Taylor Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That the draft minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 15th January 2020 be approved as a true record of proceedings (subject to a small amendment concerning the Friends of Centre Vale Park and fallen trees) and signed by the Chair</i></p>
<p>2020(CEC)023</p>	<p><u>ITEM 5. Exclusion of Press and Public - Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960</u></p> <p>To consider and confirm any agenda items that require the exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 for matters appertaining to confidential or exempt information.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr M Taylor and Seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <p><i>That the agenda items for the meeting do not require the exclusion of the press and public and that they be allowed to remain for the duration of the meeting.</i></p>
<p>2020(CEC)024</p>	<p><u>ITEM 6. Presentation by Robin Gray of Slow the Flow</u></p> <p>To receive presentation</p> <p>Mr Gray said that Slow the Flow (SLF) was set up in 2015 following the Boxing Day floods. The organisation was now five years old and had just been recognised as a registered charity – Slow the Flow Calderdale. All the members and trustees are volunteers and they represent the Calder Valley. Mr Gray said that there was a wide range of expertise in SLF as he and Andy McDermott are landscape architects and Stuart Bradshaw is a geological technical engineer. Adrian looks after the social media for SLF and Bede Mullen (who is also an engineer) is the chair.</p> <p>He explained that they have mainly focused on Hardcastle Craggs in conjunction with the National Trust (NT). The NT has funded chainsaw operatives who have built 400 wooden dams. They are currently doing a project with the University of Leeds and have introduced bridge monitoring and transducers. This has been funded in this pilot work by the Environment Agency (EA).</p> <p>Apart from the NT and the EA they work in partnership with Calderdale MBC, and in particular with Ben Fenton who is responsible for Flood Management. They are also working with the flood wardens and some Calder Valley landowners. Stuart Bradshaw has created attenuation ponds on his own land. Attenuation ponds at Holroyd, near Todmorden, have protected residents in nearby homes from flooding. Mr Gray said that</p>

natural flood management can aid with local flooding issues but not with large scale flooding caused by generalised torrential rain.

Mr Gray said that SLF had held volunteer events at Hardcastle Craggs prior to the Covid-19 pandemic began. SLF also focuses on the provision of equipment, monitoring flows and education. They have run fund raising events, such as an event with comedian John Richards at Hebden Bridge Picture House. They have also worked in schools such as Calder High, through 'Noisy Toys' (an ex-teacher) to provide education about natural flood management.

SLF has also been active with 'opportunity mapping' in Mytholmroyd where opportunities for natural flood management are being identified. The aim is to create a 'blue/green' network to absorb and contain flood water.

The SLF has a national profile and during the Covid-19 lockdown they had a gathering where they showed a new film of their work with hundreds attending from far and wide, including several academics. The EA support the work of the SLF because they advocate building resilience to enable the possibility of being able to adapt to and live with the changes brought by climate change.

At this stage, a short film clip on natural flood management (from the SLF website) was shown.

Mr Gray recommended that members view the website for more information and further film clips: <https://www.slowtheflow.net>

He also recommended that members view the EA website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-natural-processes-to-reduce-flood-risk>

Mr Gray said that natural flood management, which, in effect was micro flood management engineering, was required alongside larger scale engineering solutions to flood management. He said that natural flood management solutions may reduce the scale of wall building solutions, but it would not obviate the need for them.

Mr Gray said that the introduction/development of sphagnum moss was part of the solution for moorland regeneration. He said that this is an area of expertise for him and he agreed to present to the committee at a later point on this. He said that this work was being done by the 'Moors for the Future' group. He said that the moorlands at Langfield Common and Gaddings Dam are areas of 'Special Scientific Interest'. Unfortunately, other higher moorland areas have been badly degraded and would need considerable work, such as importing substrata soil, to regenerate them. He said that Gorpley Clough was such an area.

Clr A Hollis raised the issue of the proposed building of houses (in the Local Plan) potentially on areas of mudstone, on the hillsides where previous attempts at building had resulted in landslips. Mr Gray said that specialised expertise was required in geotechnology to advise on this. He suggested that a detailed geotechnical survey be done of these areas and that the Planning Department at Calderdale would require this detailed information.

Mr Gray said that there were publications due soon such as that from the EA on its Tree Strategy and Peatland Restoration.

Clr R Coleman-Taylor thanked Mr Gray for his excellent and informative presentation. She said that the Climate Emergency Committee would be interested in working with SLF and other organisations to identify where to lobby and seek funding to forward the climate emergency agenda within the context of the powers of a Town Council.

	<p>Mr Gray said that he would report back to SLF that Todmorden Town Council is interested in working with them.</p>
<p>2020(CEC)025</p>	<p><u>ITEM 7. Briefing Paper and Proposed Resolution Received from Richard Outram (Now Cath Benn) from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament</u> To receive briefing paper and consider suggested resolution.</p> <p>Cllr R Coleman-Taylor said that unfortunately the Climate Emergency Committee would be unable to decide on the briefing paper and resolutions as it was outside the scope of the Committee. However, it could be referred to the meeting of the full Town Council where decisions could be made. She said that members will have already received the briefing paper and would have the opportunity to read before the Town Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr R Coleman-Taylor said that the Climate Emergency Committee would be very pleased to work with the CND on aspects relating to climate change.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr M Taylor and Seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <p><i>That a presentation be made to the Full Council on 14 October.</i></p>
<p>2020(CEC)026</p>	<p><u>ITEM 8. Correspondence</u> To receive and consider any items of correspondence for consideration.</p> <p>None received</p>
<p>2020(CEC)027</p>	<p><u>ITEM 9. Role of the Council Regarding Climate Change</u> To refresh awareness of previous discussions of the Committee about its role regarding climate change</p> <p>Cllr R Coleman-Taylor read through the areas from the note concerning the actions the Climate Emergency Committee would consider, including cycle racks in the centre of Todmorden to encourage more people to cycle rather than use cars.</p> <p>Mr Baylis said that he was interested in the Climate Emergency Committees desire to influence improvements in energy efficiency in Council buildings (which are run by Calderdale Council). He said that the Town Council could suggest improved energy efficiency measures when considering planning applications (although most buildings are only built to the specifications of the Building Regulations which are set at the bare minimum). He mentioned that the swimming pool and the Leisure Centre’s heating facilities were 20 years old that there was an opportunity here to make energy efficiencies with any new provision. Potentially a new boiler could generate sufficient energy for the leisure centre as well as Todmorden High School and the Fielden Centre.</p> <p>Ms Gallagher reiterated that TTC could influence energy efficiency through the planning application consultation process. This could include not only energy efficiency but also the promotion of green areas.</p> <p>Ms Gallagher also suggested that the TTC could usefully advertise the current ‘Green Home’ Grant Scheme where homeowners can claim up to £5,000 in vouchers towards</p>

	<p>insulation of walls and roofs. She said that there had not been much publicity but the scheme ends in March 2021. She suggested that the TTC could provide a link on its website and other advertising.</p> <p>Cllr M Taylor said that the TTC website could usefully advertise such grant schemes as well as another which provides grants towards the installation of renewable energy in homes.</p> <p>The following website links were subsequently provided for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting:</p> <p>https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant (by Cathy Gallagher)</p> <p>Calderdale Green New Deal Hub email address: calderdalegnd@gmail.com. FB page is: https://www.facebook.com/calderdalegnd (by Ginny Harris)</p>
<p>2020(CEC)028</p>	<p><u>ITEM 10. Informal Meeting of Climate Emergency Committee 14 September 2020</u> To receive minutes of informal meeting.</p> <p>This was received.</p>
<p>2020(CEC)029</p>	<p><u>ITEM 11. Review of Joint Meeting with Hebden Royd TC and Calderdale MBC</u> To receive draft minutes of 24 February 2020</p> <p>This was received.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr R Coleman-Taylor and Seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <p><i>That the note of the meeting is a true representation of the discussion at the meeting.</i></p>
<p>2020(CEC)030</p>	<p><u>ITEM 12. Draft Climate Emergency Statement for Todmorden TC</u> To receive and adopt draft Climate Emergency statement</p> <p>Cllr M Taylor said that he had developed the emergency statement based on those from other councils. He said that the major role was that of lobbying.</p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr J Williams and Seconded by Cllr R Coleman-Taylor Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED:-</p> <p><i>That the draft Climate Emergency Statement be referred to the full Town Council.</i></p>
<p>2020(CEC)031</p>	<p><u>ITEM 13. Any Items for Discussion for a Future Agenda</u> To notify the Clerk of any matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Ruth Coleman-Taylor said that the agendas and dates for the next Informal Meetings should be produced by the Assistant Town Clerk by consulting with members of the Committee.</p>
<p>2020(CEC)032</p>	<p><u>ITEM 14. Date of Next Committee Meeting</u></p>

The date of the next Climate Emergency Committee Meeting is Wednesday 11 November at 7.30pm.

The dates of the next Informal Meetings are to be agreed in due course (see Item 13).

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm