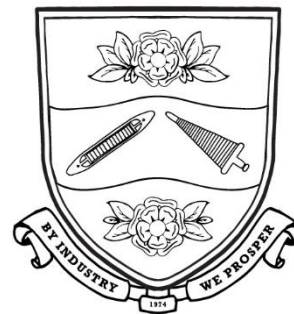


TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE Held in the Cockcroft Room, Todmorden Town Hall, Bridge Street, Todmorden, on Wednesday 9 February 2022 at 7:30 pm

Councillors Present:, Cllr Revd G Kent (Chair), Cllr R Coleman-Taylor, Cllr P Ripley, Cllr J Williams, Cllr L Thorpe and Cllr P Taylor

Absent Councillors: *None*

Observing Councillors (not a member of the committee): *None*

Officers: R Crane -Climate Officer (minute taker)

Members of the Public: *None*

2022(CEC)060	<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 noting substitutions at late notice will be allowed</p> <p><i>All committee members were present</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr J Williams and Seconded by Cllr P Taylor Unanimous</i></p>
2022(CEC)061	<p><u>ITEM 2. Declarations of Interest</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 received</i></p>
2022(CEC)062	<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. No resolutions can be under public participation.</p> <p><i>No public participation</i></p>
2022(CEC)063	<p><u>ITEM 4. Minutes - To approve the draft minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 1st December 2021.</u></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr L Thorpe Unanimous</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED:</i> <i>That the minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 1st December 2021 be accepted as a true record and the Chair to be authorised to sign as such.</i></p>

2022(CEC)064	<p>ITEM 5 - Exclusion of Press and Public - Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960</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 L Thorpe Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That any public or press who may attend be allowed to stay for the whole of the meeting</i></p>
2022(CEC)065	<p>ITEM 6 – Progress report – for information</p> <p>To provide a summary update for members of progress on the work programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings/collaborations/networking with external organisations <p><i>Cllr Revd G Kent reminded the committee that networking and collaborating with external organisations was a key part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Climate Officer then took the opportunity to update members on her latest activities on this front.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and Communications <p><i>Cllr P Taylor suggested that an inclusion of features that are currently on the Slow the Flow website would be a useful addition to the Natural Flood Management advice section on Todmorden Town Council’s Climate Emergency web section. Cllr J Williams agreed with this, with emphasis on not having to ‘reinvent the wheel’ with this type of communications work. All members were in agreement with this. Cllr Revd G Kent also suggested that a good idea would be for a complimentary communications update that focuses on what the Mayor has been doing, charting her ongoing activities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan tasks <p><i>The Climate Officer made a brief introduction to the proposed Action Plan timescale chart and the intention to re-format the existing action plan on the Todmorden Town Council website. Members welcomed these.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr Revd G Kent and seconded by Cllr L Thorpe Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>To receive the update with thanks.</i></p>

ITEM 7 – Networking reports – for information

To inform and update members on progress made on developing working relations between Todmorden Town Council's Climate Officer and the Climate Emergency representatives of neighbouring councils and other external organisations

7a. Introduction to Calderdale Council Climate Emergency Officer Forum Meetings

The Climate Officer took the opportunity to introduce the details of her engagement with CMBC and other external organisations in the form of Climate Emergency Officer forum meetings, and all were in agreement with the value and necessity of this action as part of networking and keeping abreast of the climate agenda of neighbouring councils.

Cllr J Williams emphasized the need for more transparency of local council's climate emergency agendas, and of where respective agendas overlap. There was also agreement from members concerning the need for more platforms in which to promote a local plan, so a more Todmorden-centric plan could be promoted.

A point was raised about an incident where the installation of electronic vehicle charging points was carried out by CMBC, without the prior knowledge of local residents, who were therefore surprised to find them on their streets/roads outside their properties. This highlighted the need for better communications between councils and residents, to ensure that the latter are made aware and kept in the loop of proposed climate-related actions in their neighbourhoods. Members suggested the benefits of communications with CMBC Cllr Scott Patient regarding this issue.

Cllr R Coleman-Taylor suggested an approach that involves improved information availability in the form of library resources and effective promotion of such material. She also emphasised the benefit of publicising the joint climate emergency aims of neighbouring councils, as part of feeding out information to the public domain. Also, learning resources enable more people to access information to improve 'carbon literacy' and make informed choices about how they can help mitigate climate change and the measurable impact of these choices.

7b. Climate Officer Forum Meeting Report

Cllr R Coleman-Taylor said it would be beneficial to establish who has the power to do what when it comes to influencing businesses in a move towards more sustainable practices, and that the networking opportunities that such meetings afford could serve to clarify this. She also said that this can help towards establishing what local people can do in this capacity, and therefore empower them through involvement and encouraging a wider positive impact.

Councillors asked the Climate Officer what the nature of these meetings are and to what extent she is involved in the meeting discussions. The Climate Officer informed members that for the most part she is an observer, as the meetings are formally structured and for information sharing. Members suggested that as well

as it being important for the Climate Officer to learn about CMBC's climate emergency agenda, it is just as important for Calderdale Council to learn about what Todmorden Town Council's Climate Emergency Committee have achieved and proposed to date.

The Climate Officer discussed a document that was extensively referred to in the forum meeting – that of the Emission Reductions Pathway report, which Calderdale commissioned a consultancy firm to produce. The issue of how factual-based reports and monitoring of carbon levels (and subsequent actions arising from these) are represented to the public is a concern, particularly in the light of a recent event organised by Calderdale Extinction Rebellion and Calderdale Green New Deal, where a march took place as a response to an apparent lack of follow-up to such reports. This coincides with Calderdale Council marking its 3rd anniversary of declaring a climate emergency.

The Climate Officer reported on the forum's discussion of providing accessible information for residents on such matters, as a way of ensuring they are kept informed of the latest developments and to maintain council transparency. Similarly, members unanimously agreed that Todmorden Town Council's Climate Emergency Committee should be demonstrating their implemented strategies to date, particularly in the light of its own upcoming 3rd anniversary of declaring a climate emergency.

On the carbon-related issue of the protection and restoration of sphagnum-moss, the climate officer informed members that the redevelopment of local peatland ecosystems is a task that aligns with the climate agendas of both Todmorden and Hebden Royd town councils. Cllr Revd G Kent commented on how, as a committee, they applaud the proposal of working with Hebden Royd on this issue, but what needs to be established is -how can the committee support Hebden Royd in this capacity?

Cllr M Taylor raised the point of how, within conversations of carbon reduction measures, there appears to be no inclusion of waste reduction. He emphasized the effectiveness of gathering and delivering hard-hitting facts, including those that relate to food waste and the impact this has on annual carbon emission levels. This 'shock factor' can be used as a way to grab people's attention towards the hard reality of climate change, and influence people's daily choices and habits.

Following from the discussion of food waste, Cllr L Thorpe discussed the excellent work of a local scheme that tackles food poverty and waste, where surplus food from supermarkets are distributed at various food banks throughout Calderdale. Locally speaking, there is a food parcel collection service operating from Todmorden Community College and at the Old Library in Cornholme, as well as Calder Community Cares Food Share Scheme that operates in partnership with Aldi and the Co-op. Although these voluntary-led schemes are included on the Calderdale Council website, there was suggestion that it would be beneficial to remain informed on such activities that are occurring within these schemes and to report back where necessary to CMBC, and to include more information on these schemes on our council's website as part of local activities whose work contributes towards a lowering of carbon-emitting waste.

7c. Expression of Interest Application for Local Climate Engagement Programme.

Cllr R Coleman-Taylor expressed her concerns about the recording of the political composition of the council as part of the joint application process for the Local Climate Engagement Programme with Hebden Royd.

Cllr J Williams agreed that in the event of the application not being successful, there is still the benefit of experience from working together on a joint application for climate community engagement training, which has helped reinforce the existing working relationship between Todmorden Town Council's and Hebden Royd's climate emergency officers and to help each council towards a better understanding of their respective climate emergency agendas.

The Climate Officer explained that due to the last-minute nature of the application, it was necessary to press ahead with completion and submission before informing all members, but she does, however, intend to keep all members as informed and updated as possible on future applications and similar ventures.

The Climate Officer informed the committee that due to the high volume of applications to the programme, there has been a delay in the selection of successful applicants. She told the committee that she shall keep them informed of any developments on this front.

7d. Meeting with Todmorden Flood Group

The Climate Officer took the opportunity to report to the committee her meeting with the chairperson of The Todmorden Flood Group. She made reference to a discussion point on the issue of Himalayan Balsam weed growth in Calderdale's Upper Valley, as part of addressing the multiple problems wrought by this invasive plant species, including compromised soil quality and biodiversity, and how this in turn can affect flood risk. Cllr J Williams suggested that it would be a good idea to make the chairperson of Todmorden Flood Group aware of Calderdale Council's footpath (public rights of way) officer and how their intervention may be useful in addressing this issue.

To coincide with other local springtime events, members agreed that information sharing to raise awareness of the balsam problem would link in well with other group activities, namely those of Keep Tod Tidy and Todmorden in Bloom. A map that conveys the areas where this weed is currently prevalent would serve as a helpful visual aid to inform residents and encourage practical participation in efforts to mitigate growth. A pilot scheme was suggested as a way of testing whether or not any form of collective action on this issue would be viable, with mention of Gorpley Clough as an area of focus. Calderdale Council was suggested as a potential organisation to consult on this matter.

Regarding the ideas for improved communications on local flooding, members agreed that the reality of flood implications need to be made more explicit, to emphasise the fact that flooding affects everyone and can render far more devastating and wider-reaching effects than what many would initially think. The Climate Officer, in response to Cllr Revd G Kent's suggestion, said that a

volunteer appeal platform on the climate emergency webpage is to be included within the Local Action Groups section.

7e. Meeting with Climate Challenge College and All1Collective

The Climate Officer took the opportunity to report to the committee her ongoing communications with representatives of the Climate Challenge College and local social enterprise All 1 Collective and Lab. She emphasised how the overlapping objectives of both include a mobilising of the local community towards improved access to training, learning and opportunities for practical engagement in local climate action. The Climate Officer also lay emphasis on how these two groups focus on the need for education, thereby cultivating longer-term prospects for the future of the green economy. Members agreed that a key component of this for the Climate Officer to collaborate with would be the educational side of the communications plan, with possible exploration of youth councils and Todmorden High School.

In relation to the 'climate justice' element of All 1 Collective's work, which ensures that minority and disadvantaged groups within the community have equal opportunities to participate in climate change action, Cllr Revd G Kent made reference to the Climate Assembly UK, where a 'Citizen's Assembly' operates to bring a wide demographic of people together to discuss climate change related matters and actions arising from this.

Proposed by Cllr L Thorpe and seconded by Cllr P Taylor Unanimous

RESOLVED: *Members were in favour of a continuation of the Climate Officer's networking and collaborative efforts with neighbouring external organisations, with strategies being implemented for raising the profile of Todmorden Town Council's Climate Emergency Committee's work.*

2022(CEC)067

ITEM 8 –Action Plan A5 Leaflet – for decision

To present to members for approval a proposed finalised version of the Climate Emergency Action plan A5 promotional leaflet.

Members were happy with the proposed content of the leaflet. Members were informed of the outstanding tasks of the Chair to provide a suitable image of himself for inclusion on said leaflet and final formatting/proof readings ahead of sending off finalised version to print.

Proposed by Cllr M Taylor and seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous

RESOLVED: *Members agreed that the next task regarding the A5 Action Plan leaflet is to get the promotional side underway.*

2022(CEC)068	<p>ITEM 9 Action Plan Timescale – for decision To present to members for approval a proposed timescale for tasks 1 and 2 of the Action Plan.</p> <p><i>Members welcomed the timescale approach to planning tasks 1 and 2 of the action plan, as put forward by the Climate Officer.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr Revd G Kent and seconded by Cllr L Thorpe Unanimous</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>Members agreed to discuss the viability of said proposed timescale at the next Climate Emergency Committee informal meeting on 14.02.22.</i></p>
2022(CEC)069	<p>ITEM 10 Outstanding items -for information To receive summaries of:</p> <p>a) Outstanding projects/work relating to this Committee</p> <p>b) Completed projects/work relating to this Committee</p> <p><i>Members agreed that, ahead of the next informal meeting, they shall take the time to review the above summaries and make comment where needs be in relation to areas of priority, particularly relating to tasks 1 and 2 of the Action Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr L Thorpe and seconded by Cllr J Williams Unanimous</i></p>
2022(CEC)070	<p>Item 11 Correspondence To receive and consider any items of correspondence for consideration</p> <p><i>No correspondence.</i></p>
2022(CEC)071	<p>ITEM 12 Future Agenda Items To consider future agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of Action Plan and Climate Pledge leaflets ➤ A review of Task 1 Pilot Scheme developments ➤ For next informal meeting on 14/02/22
2022(CEC)072	<p>ITEM 13 Date of the Next Committee Meeting The date of the next Committee meeting is Wednesday 1st June 2022 at 7.30pm.</p> <p><i>The meeting closed at 8.56 pm</i></p>