

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2020**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor A. R. Greaves (Chairman – in the chair)*

**Councillors**

*Colin Carter  
Sarah Cockburn-Price (Substitute)  
Dorothy Lord  
Yvonne Tennant  
Sheila Wicks*

**Co-optees**

*Caroline Palmer      Health and Social Care  
Shazad Sarwar      Building Bridges  
John Turley          Greenpeace  
Jane Wood           Friends of the Earth*

**Officers in attendance:**

*Gill Dickson          Principal Policy Officer  
Jane Watson          Head of Democratic Services*

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Hartley, V. Fletcher and J. Nixon also Dean Langton (Chief Executive) and Co-optees Andrea Beswick, Sylvia Godfrey and David Penney).*



**1. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which reviewed the Climate Emergency Action Plan and budget programme in light of the impact of COVID-19 on communities. The Working Group were asked how they wanted to move forward with addressing climate change in the new norm.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan (attached to the report at Appendix 1) took into account the COVID-19 implications, with milestones and delivery mechanisms amended to reflect this. More emphasis had been made on issues considered key, such as tree planting and re-wilding which had been discussed at the last meeting.

It was felt that discussions should be held as soon as possible with major landowners (United Utilities, Pendle Hill Group and Lancashire County Council) with regards to additional tree planting schemes.

David Penney had submitted an email which he asked to be read out. The email made reference to a number of issues which focused mainly on the national view with regards to elements of climate change. It was felt it was important to look at this and adapt it to see what could be done locally and within the resources available.

It was noted that the Council had now embedded climate change in its Strategic Plan as part of its commitment to mainstreaming climate change. There was also a discussion about recycling collections. It was felt that the Council operated a very good system but with more education the recycling rates may be increased. The Government were also going to introduce food waste collection nationally which would reduce landfill. A discussion with the Environmental Services Manager was suggested.

The budget remained at £130,000, £100,000 Climate Emergency Budget and £30,000 (over 2 years) for the Lancashire Woodland Connect initiative. The report set out how this funding had been allocated previously. It was noted that the lockdown over March-June had affected delivery of the Community Climate programme. School closures, community isolation and social distancing had also impacted on delivery.

It was suggested that the initial budget review be moved forward to allow consideration of alternative delivery mechanisms for a COVID-19 secure community programme with a view to commencing the revised programme from September, 2020. It was acknowledged that this would be reviewed in line with any new Government guidance which was a possibility with the ever changing situation with this pandemic.

The report set out the proposed revised Community Climate Programme:

	£	
Pendle Schools Climate Movement	20,000	Schools and College to be invited to apply for funding up to a maximum of £2,500 for climate change schemes on their premises. To focus on physical rather than social aspects.
Community Grant Scheme	25,000	Grassroot environmental groups to be encouraged to apply for a climate grant to help create climate friendly neighbourhoods. To enhance spaces rather than social aspects.
Creative Engagement	5,000	This has been reduced from £9,000 to £5,000 and, subject to COVID-19 developments, it be used to support a second Pendle Schools Climate summit to be held between January and March, 2021.

There was a discussion around whether or not match funding should be a requirement for both the Schools and Community Grant Schemes to utilise other potential funding streams and programmes. It was felt that group size should determine match funding requirements as it was important that the small, grassroots organisations were not deterred from applying. Details to be included in the criteria.

It was suggested that a Panel of Members from this Group be set up to process the applications for both the small grants schemes. The process needed to be robust but not bureaucratic, promote COVID-19 secure principles and have a quick turn-around to enable the projects time to deliver. The application assessment process would be completed virtually and co-ordinated by the Principal Policy Officer.

It was also noted that the current COVID-19 situation may impact on capacity to deliver the Community Climate programme (initially planned for September when the schools would re-open). A review of staff capacity would be needed, if necessary, in September with a revised schedule submitted to the next meeting.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the revised Climate Emergency Budget Programme for 2020/21, as set out in the report, be agreed, subject to staff capacity to deliver from September, 2020.
- (2) That the revised Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2020-2022, as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report, be agreed.
- (3) That a three Member Panel (one from each Political Group on the Working Group) be set up to consider the grant applications for the Community Grant Scheme and the Pendle Schools Climate Movement.
- (4) That the Environmental Services Manager be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss recycling issues within the Borough.
- (5) That a virtual meetings be arranged with representatives from United Utilities, Pendle Hill Group, Lancashire County Council, members of this Working Group and relevant officers to discuss possible tree planting schemes and other relevant matters.

## **3. PENDLE TREE PLANTING SCHEME**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined plans for tree planting within the Borough for 2020/21.

The report stated that a minimum of 3,100 new trees each year needed to be planted in the Borough in order to meet the national greenhouse gas reduction targets over the next decade. This would total a minimum of 31,000 additional trees by 2030. It was proposed that the figure of 3,100 trees be provisionally adopted as the Council's annual target.

Council owned land had been focused on for tree planting and woodland creation – initially ten sites had been identified. It was proposed that a minimum tree planting would go ahead on five sites this year. Two facilitated by the Council and on Council owned land and three delivered through the Lancashire Woodland Initiative, collectively generating over 3,300 extra trees. Additionally, two community woodland sites could also be developed, but these were subject to funding.

Ribble Rivers Trust were also in discussions with landowners to progress tree planting schemes. Three of these sites would be included in the 2020/21 Tree Planting Plan and between them they could accommodate in excess of 2,000 trees.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Number of Trees</b>
King George V Playing Fields, Colne	740
Chatburn Park Drive, Brierfield	350
Brierfield (Northlight)	680
Colne (two Farm Sites)	1,660

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Hard Platts, Nelson	to be confirmed
Ringstone Crescent, Nelson	to be confirmed
TOTAL	3,430

The Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy was to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee which would set out the principles for effective tree planting and woodland management.

Reference was made to proposals being made to remove trees and shrubs at the King George V playing fields in Colne to help combat anti-social behaviour issues in this area by providing better visibility. It was suggested that an item be put on the next Colne and District Committee agenda to discuss this issue.

It was also felt that there was more capacity within the parks for additional tree planting and that the Town and Parish Council's be contacted about this. It was reported that Alkincoats Woodland Trust had acquired some further land and were proposing to plant additional trees during the Autumn planting season.

**AGREED**

- (1) That the proposed tree planting plans for 2020/21 be agreed and it be recommended that these be approved by the Policy and Resources Committee when considering the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy.
- (2) That the Town and Parish Councils be asked to consider additional tree planting and/or woodland creation schemes in their parks.
- (3) That the proposal to remove trees and shrubs from the King George V Playing Fields in Colne to address anti-social behaviour issues be referred to the Colne and District Committee for discussion.
- (4) That the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy be circulated to Members of this Working Group.

**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**AGREED**

That the next meeting be held in October, 2020 – exact date to be confirmed.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_