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To All Members of the Environmental and Sustainability Committee:

Keynsham Town Councillors: D Biddleston, C Brennan, C Buxton, D Cooper, A Greenfield (Chairman), B. Simmons and A Wait

Lead Community Organisations: Keynsham Plastic Reaction (F Edwards); Keynsham In Bloom (D Drury); Keynsham Wombles (E Davies), Transition Keynsham (Hazel Mitchell – Vice-Chairman)

Business Representatives: Independent Trader (One member to attend); Large Business – John Laing (Pukka Herbs)

B&NES Ward Councillor (Cllr H MacFie)

B&NES Officer (Jane Wildblood)

cc. All Other Town Councillors

Dear Councillor

You are invited to participate in a remote attendance of the **ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE** on **Tuesday 13 October 2020** commencing at **6.00pm**

Signed on 6 October 2020

By Dawn Drury, Deputy Town Clerk

This meeting is open to Members of the Public. For telephone dial in details please contact the Town Clerk.

To Join the Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85321724101?pwd=b0gxdUdJT2x2OWJkQjJwR3hTb254QT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2172 4101

Passcode: 617388

THIS MEETING MAY BE FILMED OR RECORDED (PLEASE REFER TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF LOCAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (adopted August 2014).

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CTTEE AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION:

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interest under Keynsham Town Council's Code of Conduct (adopted on 16th April 2019) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, SI No. 1464 and as per Standing Order 3(v).

3. DISPENSATIONS

In accordance with Standing Order 13, to consider any requests for dispensations (for disclosable pecuniary interests) prior to the item (s) being discussed, that Members may only become aware of during the meeting itself and to receive any disclosures of decisions as per item 7 of Keynsham Town Council's Dispensations Policy and Procedure Guide.

RECOMMENDATION:

To receive requests for dispensations (for disclosable pecuniary interests) prior to an individual item(s) being discussed, that Members may only become aware of during the meeting itself.

4. RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 1st September 2020 (previously circulated) be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with Standing Order 3(e), Members of the Public will have the opportunity to ask the Chairman any question concerning, or make observations upon, the business of the Council, at the start of the meeting, provided notice of the question along with the name and address of the member of public has been given to the Town Clerk at least four clear days before the meeting where possible, and in

any case to the Chairman before the meeting. This also applies to all Committees of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Chairman respond to any questions/observations. If the matter is not already tabled on the Agenda, the Council may move a motion to refer the matter to be itemised on the Agenda of a successive meeting, but it cannot make any decisions on any matters raised at this meeting unless considered under a further item on this particular Agenda.

6. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

To receive updates on progress from action points of last meeting.

- (i) Confirmation - Cllr A Greenfield and DTC met and have worked through the project plan (see agenda item 10).
- (ii) Confirmation - actioned by DTC – copy of tree planting plan for Hygge sent to all members.
- (iii) Confirmation - proposed tree planting process plan produced by DTC (see agenda item 13).
- (IV) Confirmation – B&NES strategy requested by Cllr Andy Wait and distributed by DTC.

7. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider the Keynsham Town Council Environment and Sustainability Project Plan.

To make additions and amendments where appropriate.

8. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

RECOMMENDATION:

To receive an update from meeting with Oldland Parish Council and subsequent site visit (Councillors A Wait and H MacFie).

9. POLICY IN RESPECT OF BADGER CULLING

To note the contents of an email from Maria Lucas (Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer – B&NES Council) dated 17th September 2020.

‘Badger culling typically starts at the beginning of September and I am writing to remind you of the resolution passed by Council on 22 March 2018 to refuse permission for any badger culling to take place on land controlled by the Council and to encourage Parish Councils to implement the same policy. I have provided below a copy of the Council’s resolution from the 22nd March 2018’

RESOLVED that

Council notes:

1. That Natural England has received an application for badger culling in Avon.
2. That badger culling has already been taking place in Somerset for a number of years.
3. That only 5.7% of incidences of bovine tuberculosis (bTb) are caused by badgers.
4. That millions of pounds are spent each year on the badger cull, with each culled badger costing thousands of pounds.
5. That the badger cull is more than seven times more expensive per badger than the Welsh government’s badger vaccination scheme.
6. That reports show that up to 22.8% of badgers culled take more than 5 minutes to die, making the cull inhumane by government standards.
7. That organisations opposed to the badger cull include: the RSPCA, the RSPB, and the Wildlife Trusts (including Avon Wildlife Trust).
8. That landowner permission is required for the badger cull to take place on any land.

Council believes:

1. That the badger cull has been ineffective.
2. That more effective means of controlling bTb include: testing, movement control and vaccination.
3. That the government should revisit the evidence on badger culling and end the programme.
4. That public money could be far better spent than on spending an estimated £100 million on badger culling by 2020.

Council resolves:

1. To refuse permission for any badger culling to take place on land controlled by the Council.
2. To encourage Parish Councils to implement the same policy.

3. To write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to inform him of our decision, but to offer access to Council land for a coordinated badger vaccination programme.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) To note the resolution passed by B&NES Council on 22 March 2018 to refuse permission for any badger culling to take place on land controlled by the Council.
- (ii) That Keynsham Town Council implement the same policy.

9. DECLARATION OF AN ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) To note the contents of an email received from a member of the public dated 10th September 2020 requesting that, following B&NES unanimous decision to declare an Ecological Emergency, Keynsham Town Council do the same to try and diminish climate change and the loss of biodiversity.
- (ii) To decide whether to declare an Ecological Emergency.

10. TREE PLANTING PROCESS PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider a tree planting process plan (to be circulated before the meeting).

10. TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

To suggest topics for future meetings and to allocate responsibilities to Committee members in respect of research required – deferred from the last meeting.

Previously suggested topics:

Transportation including community buses and cycling.

Provision and linking up of cycle paths and provision of cycle shelters.

Park and minibus ride into town.

Shuttle bus service for S. Glos residents to Somerdale employment. (Cllr Simmons has produced a paper on this).

Increase in parking provision.

Bring together local food produces and hold a food festival.

Somerdale reservoir and wet land.

It was suggested that interested parties should be invited when discussions on these topics occur.

It was suggested that Keynsham look at other examples of good working practice e.g. Transition Town Totnes and Preston Borough Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider the above and if no action defer to the next meeting.

11. PROPOSED SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Suggested possible organisations

The Sustainable Food Trust.

Rewilding of Rivers – managing flooding.

The BART river project was explained. This is currently at a feasibility stage.

Keynsham Community Energy.

Avon Wildlife Trust.

Zero Carbon Compton.

RECOMMENDATION:

To decide if a speaker is required for the next meeting, if not defer item to the next meeting.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RECOMMENDATION:

To note that the next meeting of this Committee will be held on **TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER at 6.00 p.m.** virtually by Zoom video conferencing.