

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on
Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors C Buxton, A Greenfield (Chair), B Simmons and A Wait

Jon Parker (Oldland Parish Council), Clarice Corfield (Churches Together) and Philippa Paget (Independent Traders Group)

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury – Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) and Ward Councillor H MacFie

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Cooper and Steve Skidmore.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

109. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

101. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2021 be confirmed as a true record by the Chairman and were signed by the Chairman (hard copy supplied in advance to the Chair for signing).

102. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Jon Parker Oldland Common Parish Council.

With agreement of the Committee the order of the agenda was amended to take items in a different order to accommodate members that had to leave the meeting early.

Order Item 6, 9, 8 and then 7 rest of the agenda to follow, in order.

103. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

Jon Parker reported that on 8th April 2021, he has a meeting with S. Glos Council officers on site on the Keynsham Road cycle path. This meeting is to follow up on the recent vegetation clearance that they undertook and to open up discussions on the short term and long-term options to improve the route but in particular short-term options. As reported previously S. Glos have agreed in principle to fund a Keynsham Road improvement study. It is hoped that we will hear from them shortly on the nature of this and how they are taking this matter forward. Jon will ask the officers if there is anything that can be done in the very short term (weeks/months) to improve the safety of that route.

Cllr A Wait reported that he had had some good news in respect of the Keynsham Road (Keynsham end) in that he has been in contact with the Project Director for Taylor Wimpey. The Project Director had informed Cllr Wait that as part of their responsibilities going forward from the Chocolate Quarter, that they are going to widen the pavements as you go up towards the station to 3 metres. This a massive project which may mean removing a retaining wall, and clarification in writing has been requested to confirm this course of action. This will be excellent, as the Keynsham/Willsbridge cycle path will then have a continuation right up to the crossing to the station, and will also have connections through the Chocolate Quarter and on to Bristol once the bridge across the river is constructed.

Cllr Simmons pointed out that on the original planning application it shows the cycle path going from Keynsham Road through the overflow car park and straight into the Somerdale site following a compacted track/path. He is currently waiting to hear from the B&NES case officer in respect of what has happened on the S106 agreement. The original agreement also included a café on the corner of the overflow car park. Tarmac footpaths are currently being installed around the edge of the Somerdale site.

There was some confusion, as the two routes above seem totally separate and it would be important to ensure that both walkers and cyclists have a safe and easy route to the station without having to enter Somerdale and then come back out on to Station Road. Clarification needs to be sought on both suggested cycle paths.

It is hoped that with the Keynsham Road end improvements, it will give S.Glos an incentive to get the Willsbridge/Bitton end sorted to allow an integrated route.

All were thanked by the Chair for the progress to date.

104. ENVIRONMENT CELEBRATION DAY

Clarice reported that the event application was submitted about 3 weeks ago and that she had chased B&NES to confirm that the event could go ahead but was informed that she would not get the final go ahead until about 5 – 6 weeks before the event. It was explained that they were not saying no to the event, but it would still be able to go ahead but all the

submitted documentation needs to be submitted before a Safety Advisory Group (including Police, Ambulance, Highways, Environmental Health, etc) and a meeting will be held between the event organisers and this group so that they can confirm that the event can be held safely.

An application for funding will be submitted to the Town Council through the grant process to cover some of the event costs.

Letters and emails inviting exhibitors will be send out shortly. Alastair Singleton is sending out sponsorship letters.

Subgroups have been formed to share the workload in preparing for the event and these include: - participation of children, a poster and photo exhibition in the Baptist Church, meditation and prayer event in the Methodist Church, promotion of the event online, in the local press, radio etc.

One person is leading on organising the logistics for the Friday night talks, in The Space. The stalls and St. John's Ambulance have been booked. Enquiries have been made from B&NES in respect of parking for exhibitors. A designer for a poster and flyer has been contacted.

Costs for the event are now in the region of £2600 (and expected to be nearer £3000 in the end).

105. WOODLAND TRUST TREE ORDERS

Currently, the Woodland Trust website states that due to technical issues during COVID is not taking further orders for delivery of trees in the Autumn but to check back regularly, which the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed she would. It was clarified that two whip packs were still required, one for Manor Road and one for within the Teviot Road play area.

Cllr Wait reported that Mark Cassidy, with S106 funding has plans for the rest of the Teviot Road green space in respect of tree and shrub planting.

106. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

Cllr Greenfield reported that, to date, he and Cllr Cooper had been unable to fix a date to review and update the project plan. Following the meeting with Cllr Cooper it is intended that the sub-committee groups (of Committee volunteers) will be set up. This will not hold up things that the Committee are currently doing, but once this meeting has been held it will inform more clearly what is to happen in the future with any projects.

107. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL BILL

Cllr Greenfield reported that Cllr Buxton had undertaken some research and had in particular looked at Bristol City Climate and Ecological Bill. Her notes had been sent to

Cllr Greenfield with the intention of meeting to discuss the same but unfortunately this meeting had not happened to date. Cllr Buxton reported from her research she had looked at B&NES Council website for their Ecological Strategy/Policy but only found a short ecological video however, Bristol City Council had far more information. Bristol has a brochure on their Ecological Strategy, and they made a clear differentiation between what the ecological problem is and the impact that it has had on Bristol and includes an action plan. Cllr Buxton explained that she had used the Climate and Ecological declaration that was shared around the Committee. She had added to this in red all the items within the E & S Committee project plan that directly related to ecology in 10 -15 bullet points so that it is clear that we are aware locally, and what we are doing at the moment. Cllr Buxton shared the ecological declaration on screen with the other members of the Committee. She explained that she had followed the statement **'Council therefore resolves to support the Climate and Ecological Bill.....'** by explaining what we are doing so far (items from the project plan). Cllr Buxton asked if other members of the Committee could email her with additional thoughts on actions relating to ecology that we are already taking part in but are not included, for example matters relating to allotments. The wildflower meadow at Keynsham Cemetery was suggested as a project to be included. It was explained that this declaration was not to go into actual specifics but just to show what we are currently doing to support the declaration for an ecological bill. The actual specifics should be and will be included in the full project plan. Cllr Greenfield added that we can support the declaration for the ecology bill by saying that we have a project plan that will guide us to increase trees, hedgerows, wildflowers, to protect, enhance and reverse the damage to ecology, encouraging wetlands and also encourage people to shop locally and buy local foods.

A copy of Cllr Buxton's supporting statements will be sent to the Town Clerk for her to review before being presented to full Council for consideration. Everyone is to send in any additional points by end of play on Friday.

108. FUTURE MEETINGS/ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Allocation of responsibilities from the project plan will happen once this has been worked on by Cllrs Greenfield and Cooper. Cllr Greenfield will also contact members of the sub-committee to ascertain best days/times for holding meetings to work on project plan items.

In respect of being able to post ecological messages on the Town Council website it was reported that the website is still not up to date following the upgrade to a fully accessible site and this will not be worked on until the Town Council has more staff to manage the updating of the same.

Cllr Greenfield said that it would be great to have an ecological message on the home page that has a link to the NALC Climate Change page, which has some excellent resources and information that members of our community may be interested in.

109. PROPOSED SPEAKERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That Philippa Paget do a presentation/speak on behalf of the Independent Traders in respect of climate and ecological matters at the next meeting.

110. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next virtual meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 6.00 p.m. via virtual Zoom Video conferencing.**

The meeting closed at 6.43 p.m.

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)

DRAFT