

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment & Sustainability Committee held on
Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 7pm in MakeSpace,
Riverside Terrace, Keynsham.

PRESENT: Councillors A Greenfield, E Cannon, C Davis, H MacFie and A Wait

NOT PRESENT: Cllr S Alenshasy

IN ATTENDANCE: Katherine Sears – Deputy Town Clerk

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR 2024/2025

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Greenfield be appointed as Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR 2024/2025

RESOLVED:

That this be deferred to the next meeting after Cllr Leonard has confirmed whether she would like to continue with this role.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
2024/2025

RESOLVED:

It was noted that Councillors S Alenshasy, E Cannon, C Davis, C Leonard, A Greenfield, A Wait and H MacFie are the appointed members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/2025, as agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on 21st May 2024.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Leonard and James Boxall-Clasby.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

6. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee feel that the Terms of Reference need to be revised for this Committee.

RESOLVED:

Cllr Greenfield and DTC to look at making the Terms of Reference more in line with what this Committee does and make recommendations to full Council in respect of any changes.

8. RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 26th March 2024 be received and noted.

9. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT PLAN

Cllr Greenfield highlighted the 4 main areas:

- 1) Installing solar panels on KTC buildings, such as Burnett and Manor Road.
- 2) Buy green electricity.
- 3) Promote a bulk buying scheme.
- 4) Internal review of Council activities.

Each topic was discussed:

- 1) The Burnett unit needs much repair, and it isn't owned by KTC so not suitable for solar panels. Manor Road is suitable as this is a flat roof, often a prime spot for young people to climb and vandalise, there is also a tree nearby. There was a suggestion of the Cemetery but there is very limited space and so not appropriate. Bus shelters weren't mentioned, it was deemed that these wouldn't be high enough and prone to vandalism, maybe better to consider flower beds on bus shelters to help bees and wildlife.
- 2) Currently tied into a contract with electrical supplier that would incur a fee to end early.
- 3) This isn't something that KTC can easily promote.
- 4) Discussed in Item 10.

Other discussions around improving the cycle routes throughout the town. Cllr Wait updated on the options that BANES are considering, improving the cycle path along Durley Hill to Hicks Gate, segregating the cars from the cyclists, there will be a Community Hub at the new Park and Ride with cycling facilities, trying to get Taylor Wimpey to sort that the cycle path can continue from Willsbridge Road and into Somerdale Estate and meet up with the Somerdale Bridge which will be built shortly, this will connect to the Docks and Bristol, making a more direct route from Keynsham to South Bristol.

RESOLVED:

- i) *That the update be received and noted.*
- ii) *To recommend to full Council that a Cycle Working Group be set up.*

10. KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE/STAFF E&S OPERATIONS REPORT

Good to see practices to reduce impact on environment are being implemented.

RESOLVED:

- i) *That the report be received and noted.*
- ii) *DTC to look into the getting the door of the KTC office fixed & costs to be taken to full Council.*
- iii) *DTC to add some progress data to the report for next meeting.*

11. UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURING PARISHES MEETING

RESOLVED:

DTC to set up a Teams meeting with local Parish and Town Councils to discuss E&S projects and issues.

12. KEYNSHAM CEMETERY

RESOLVED:

To proceed with the suggested purchases of bird feeders and tables for the Cemetery.

13. THE ORCHARD PROJECT

Cllr Cannon reported that Avon Valley Woodland Group have local apple trees who could be a source of local variety, they may be able to provide a more manageable quantity of trees.

The maintenance of the trees needs to be considered, who will look after them and the cost involved.

RESOLVED:

Areas that could be considered:

- *Land behind the Methodist Church Queens Road, that was originally earmarked for a community garden*
- *The Paddock*
- *Curo land between Milward Road and St John's Court*

14. KEYNSHAM HIGH STREET FLOWER PLANTER

Cllr Cannon reported that the original plan showed that there should have been a tree on this site in the new development, but due to utilities underground it wasn't a feasible place for a tree. Various residents have mentioned that this is a bare area, and it would be nice to have some more colour there in planters.

RESOLVED:

To recommend to the Regeneration Team the idea of planters on the High Street that could be moved for events such as Winter Festival.

15. DOWNFIELD PLAY AREA

DTC reported that Curo had been contacted with regards to the land near the play area which currently has the concrete boulders on, and whether trees could be planted here to soften this area. Also, that along with the refurbishment of the Downfield Play Area that more trees to be planted, with permission from Curo, along the back of the play area and some wildflower seeds.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received and noted.

16. ROOFTOP REVOLUTION

Cllr Wait reported the Leisure Centre is full steam ahead with regards to getting solar panels installed on their roof. The Riverside block is a little more complicated, BANES do own the roof of this building, residents need to be negotiated with and the management group. The priority will be the Leisure Centre at the moment.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received and noted.

17. SOMERDALE SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

Cllr Cannon reported that he had met with the Head Teacher, it was confirmed that the Governors were looking into it and that they thought we should have had a response. No response has been received to date.

RESOLVED:

Cllr Cannon to go back to the school after 5th July to seek a response.

18. FARMERS MARKET & COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Farmer's Markets are a great way to engage with the community and are successful when there is a "giveaway". Wildflowers are always well received, as were the Daffodil bulbs and the Hedgehog Highways. Another idea mentioned was little packets of Hedgehog food, but this could attract rats so deemed not suitable.

Workshops could be held during the school holiday in MakeSpace to make insect hotels, Keynsham In Bloom are happy to host these workshops. It would be a ticketed event to cover the costs of materials.

RESOLVED:

- i) *Giveaway of Hedgehog Highways and Wildflower seeds at the July Farmers Market.*
- ii) *DTC to investigate organising the workshops for children's craft session to make insect hotels.*

19. BRISTOL EAST FRINGE CYCLE AND WALKING PATHS

Cllr Wait reported that this group has folded now that it has completed it's purpose.

RESOLVED:

This item to be removed from future agendas.

20. CONNECTING CYCLE AND FOOTPATHS (CROSS COUNTY BORDERS)

Report from James Boxall-Clasby was shown and discussed.

RESOLVED:

DTC to distribute the report to the Committee members.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of this Committee will be held on TUESDAY 9th JULY 2024 at 7.00p.m. in MakeSpace.

The meeting ended at 8.43 p.m.

SIGNED:..... (Chairman) Dated:.....

DRAFT