

# Lyme Regis One Planet Working Group

## Minutes of the meeting on 19th September 2019

### Members present:

Belinda Bawden  
Judy Haines  
Michael Haines  
Leon Howe  
Daryl Turner  
Simon West  
John Wright

### Apologies:

Sue Atkinson  
Peter Coe  
Jenny Short

### 1. Previous meeting minutes

These were accepted as true and accurate.

### 2. SDG 15

As Jake had agreed to research SDG 15 and was not present, this item was deferred.

### 3. Town Council update

John explained some of the actions the town council would be considering:

1. Free town bus service for Gateway card holders, possibly extending to Uplyme.
2. Working with DWP to have better signage to explain recycling.
3. Solar panels on the Council (cadet) hut is a longer term project as the current roof is asbestos.
4. Council office refurbishment will be as sustainable and environmentally conscious as possible.
5. An increase in car parking fees to offset the average CO2 used for the trip.

John said the council's view was to identify actions they could easily take e.g. switching to green utilities and looking at ethical investments. The environmental 'wish-list' would be considered by members the following week at the Strategy & Finance Committee on 25th September, after which public consultation would be arranged through a public event and Lyme Voice, a census-selected group representing nearly 10% of the

population. The outcomes would feed into the medium term financial plan with 'green' objectives to be considered at Full Council on 8th January.

John reiterated that the council is committed to the climate and environmental objectives and is seeking practical approaches, adding that some campaigning work can be left to others. Simon added that Extinction Rebellion acts as the stick and the OPWG can be the carrot.

#### **4. Dorset Council update**

Daryl reported he was following Devon County Council and Glasgow City Council's environmental actions and recommended their websites.

Dorset Council will be reviewing funding to set their priorities to undertake their climate action. The list below are action points highlighted by Daryl at the last Climate change Executive Advisory Panel (EAP). No decisions have been agreed by the EAP to date:

1. Leadership and influence - involving partners e.g. Youth representatives.
2. Divesting (from fossil fuel industry).
3. Creation of a green energy company - huge assets involved but generating income.
4. Opposing fracking in Dorset.
5. Planting trees and cleaning rivers.
6. Equipment and liability support.
7. Sustainable transport strategy, including localism where training and equipment would be provided for e.g. filling potholes.
8. Pilot scheme in Dorset by James Brokenshire, for concessionary bus pass holders to pay £1 per journey as 70 out of 77 routes are not subsidised. There could be an income of £3.9 million, greater than the savings from service cuts.
9. Railway branch lines won't be restored.
10. Low power charging points for electric vehicles e.g. Woodmead Halls.
11. Improve national building standards and the quality of builds.
12. Solar panels on roofs and retro-fitting council buildings and schools.
13. Street lighting - turning off earlier (midnight) and converting to LED.
14. An EcoVillage in Symondsburry has a planning application under consideration.
15. Natural environment - looking at biodiversity loss, encouraging tree planting.
16. Farming - Extinction Rebellion had presented to the Council ideas how farming can change to improve the environment.
17. Marine Conservation Zones - Blue Marine in Lyme Bay had proved successful e.g. pink sea fan has been restored.
18. Planning for the effects of a 2 degree air temperature rise on:
  - a. Flooding
  - b. Coasts
  - c. Ports and harbours

Daryl added that Low Carbon Dorset was doing good work, Wedmore had built a solar farm in less than three months and that he was part of Dorset Council's Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel.

## **5. Progress report**

### **a. Social media and website**

Simon reported that there was a new section where members could add ideas to be adopted as projects e.g. the idea of solar car parks.

### **b. Action log**

Belinda explained the Action Log was on Google Docs to see who had undertaken which actions. Members were encouraged to offer to pick some up.

Judy noted she had been told there were concerns about Green Weigh's ability to reduce the risk of allergies as the goods were not packaged.

### **c. Widening our reach**

Discussions deferred.

## **6. Financial update**

Simon reported that there was £21 in the kitty. The finance spreadsheet was on the Google Docs and receipts were stored electronically.

Belinda reported that the Town Council has disappointingly refused to grant OPWG £250 but had reduced the funding to £100 if that was match-funded, despite her passionate advocacy for the group and its aims. Within 24 hours, though, £75 each had been pledged by Councillors Graham Turner and Jeff Scowen and a further anonymous donation of £150 had been offered. Simon's request for £250 has turned into £300!

## **7. Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils**

Belinda reported that she and John Broom has attended Western Area and Larger Towns and Parishes meetings of the DAPTC on 5th and 6th September. Professor Michael Dower of the Beaminster ECO-Group had presented 10 things local councils can do for climate and environmental action. The emergency declaration was top of DAPTC and local councils agendas.

Belinda felt Lyme Regis, Bridport and Beaminster Town Councils were in strong positions to share best practice and offer guidance to other town and parish councils and was making contact with them. She suggested a 'Race to Zero' (similar to Glasgow & Edinburgh's 'race' to be the first carbon neutral cities in the UK) to engage our communities and press in the climate actions.

## **8. Report from the St Catz Climate Change panel debate and New Green Deal**

Belinda had attended SW Green MEP Molly Scott Cato's presentation of the Green New Deal (EU funded programme to enable a transition to low/zero carbon future creating new employment and more sustainable, socially just communities) in Bournemouth on 12th September, was going to the Exeter meeting on 26th September and had tickets for others. Useful contact was made with Regen and the SW Mutual.

At an anniversary event in Oxford, Belinda attended a panel debate on 'Climate Change: Urgency and Opportunity' and will be contacting some of the panellists - Dr Vivienne Cox CBE, chair of the Rosalind Franklin Institute and former CE of BP's Renewable Energy division; Professor Geoffrey Maitland CBE, an expert in carbon capture storage; and Professor Lord Nicholas Stern, Professor of Economics and Government at the LSE and Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and previously Chief Economist at the World Bank, Head of the Government Economic Service, President of the British Academy and author of the landmark 'Stern Review: the Economics of Climate Change'.

## **9. Ideas & suggestions - urgent for Town Council consideration**

Belinda asked for any ideas for the Lyme Town Council to consider as part of the budget-setting process to be suggested as soon as possible.

## **10. Any other business**

### **a. Lyme Bay Radio: Environmental Programme 'Eco-Matters'**

Simon reported the Community Radio would be launching and invited members to discuss environmental matters there.

### **b. "Acting on behalf of OPWG" rules**

Simon had written some guidance on keeping records of actions on behalf of OPWG.

## **Next meetings to be:**

17th October - to discuss the climate and environmental action plan being submitted to LRTC.

14th November (2nd Thursday)

12th December (2nd Thursday) - to agree progress report to submit to the LRTC Strategy & Finance Committee on Wednesday 18th December.

Meeting started: 19:00

Meeting ended: 20:50