

**MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 8 September 2021
AT 6 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BELLE VUE TERRACE**

Present

Cllr Neville Mills
Cllr Neil Morton
Cllr Aidan Stitt
Cllr Sharon Taylor
Cllr David Watkins (substitute for Cllr Satterthwaite)

Apologies

Cllr Lou Lowton
Cllr Jack Satterthwaite

In attendance

Charles Porter – Operations Manager
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Lou Lowton and Cllr Jack Satterthwaite. Cllr Satterthwaite had substituted Cllr David Watkins.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2021

It was noted that apologies for absence from Cllr Mills had been received for the meeting held on 28 July 2021 but not given at the meeting. With this amendment, the notes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.

18. AGREEMENT OF SCOPE AND TENDER DETAILS FOR CARBON FOOTPRINT AUDIT

Officers had looked at The Carbon Trust, an expert partner for businesses, governments and organisations, providing support for realising plans for a sustainable, low carbon future. In calculating a carbon footprint, they use the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol emission scopes (1-3) and the panel was asked which of these they wished to use in calculating the carbon footprint of Malvern Town Council.

Scope 1 – direct emissions from combustion of gas and other fuels

Scope 2 – emissions resulting from the generation of electricity and other energy purchased (but generated elsewhere)

Scope 3 – emissions made by third parties in connection with operational activities

Members felt that it was important to consider third parties as well as the Town Council's operations, to ensure that suppliers and suchlike were meeting environmental standards.

It was commented that there was a lot of knowledge within the council and that this should be used in finding a baseline and what the impact is on the environment of the Town Council's operations.

It was also mentioned that throughout the footprint audit, it was important that everything was measurable so that the information was usable.

It was **AGREED** therefore that scopes 1-3 should be included in calculating our carbon footprint and quotations for this would be sought by Officers.

19. APPLICATION TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE NATURAL NETWORKS PROGRAMME

Members **NOTED** the eligibility criteria which include a minimum project cost of £4,500.

The land at Mill Lane may provide a suitable site for such a project and application, but it was **AGREED** that this item should be put on hold and revisited once a public consultation had been held, and it was known what the project(s) would be.

20. VISIT TO MTC REWILDING SITES WITH PANEL MEMBERS AND LIZ ETHERIDGE, WILDLIFE SITE PROJECT OFFICER, WYCHAVON AND MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Taylor explained that further to a similar item at the last meeting, she had spoken to Duncan Westbury, but he had been unable to provide a possible date for a visit, therefore she had been in contact with Liz Etheridge who was keen to visit and had suggested 14 September, which was unsuitable for panel members.

It was **AGREED** that the Operations Manager would make a list of all the sites already rewilded, and any other potential sites, including those suggested by councillors previously, to be used during the visit.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Taylor would contact Liz Etheridge to find an alternative date to 14 September and would then circulate it to all councillors.

21. PRESS RELEASE ON CHANGE TO ANNUAL PLANTING SCHEMES

Cllr Lowton was not in attendance at the meeting, but Cllr Morton suggested that Officers draft the press release and circulate to members for agreement before it was issued to the press.

22. JOINT WORKING UPDATE

Cllr Taylor reported that she and Cllr Houghton had met with Chris Reed of Platform Housing, Julie Wood and Natalie McVey of MHDC, David Mundy of Malvern Community Forest and others over the land at Beauchamp Road, to try to find a way to manage the land that was acceptable to all.

It was **AGREED** that whilst the Town Council would like to see the land in use for the community, it could only act as an 'enabler' and would not want to pay any rent for the land or commit to a cost in maintaining it.

Cllr Morton asked Cllr Taylor to arrange a meeting with Platform Housing which he would attend, to confirm that the Council would be happy to work with community groups but would not take on a lease.

23. TOWNSEND WAY ROUNDABOUT

The Operations Manager suggested that the island could be cleared and replanted with heathers, which are low growing and low maintenance. In addition, heather provides a good food source early in the year for insects and birds and are colourful throughout the summer.

It was **AGREED** to wait until after the visit by Liz Etheridge (minute 20) before deciding on the planting for the roundabout at Townsend Way.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Environmental Panel to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm.

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Chairman

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