

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021

AT 6 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BELLE VUE TERRACE

Present

Cllr Lynne Lambeth
Cllr Neville Mills
Cllr Jack Satterthwaite (from 6.37 pm)
Cllr Aidan Stitt
Cllr Sharon Taylor

Apologies

Cllr Jack Satterthwaite for lateness
Cllr Lou Lowton
Cllr Neil Morton

In attendance

Charles Porter – Operations Manager
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk
Cllr Nick Houghton (from 6.18 pm)

In the Chairman's absence, Cllr Sharon Taylor took the Chair.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Lou Lowton and Cllr Neil Morton. Cllr Satterthwaite had notified officers that he would be late.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

27. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings, to be signed by the Chairman:

- Environmental Panel meeting 8 September 2021.

28. UPDATE ON TENDER FOR CARBON FOOTPRINT AUDIT AND DECISION ON WAY FORWARD

Report EP01/21 was received and accepted.

The Operations Manager reported that officers had contacted and gained quotations for the calculation of scopes 1-3 for a carbon footprint audit. Costs varied from £2,250 for an initial consultation through to £10,000 and upwards for calculation and development of a climate action plan. The Carbon Trust had stated its services were now very much in demand and therefore not taking on further projects for the time being.

MHDC's Carbon Reduction Officer had informed officers that the District Council had calculated scopes 1 and 2 itself, and for the time being was not calculating scope 3.

It was **AGREED** therefore that Officers would gather the information required and calculate scopes 1 and 2. Figures would be used from 2019/20 to be as accurate as possible, as 2020/21 included months of lockdown and reduced use of the Town Council buildings. The results would be available for the next meeting of the Environmental Panel in February 2022.

It was also agreed that scope 3 would not be calculated at present in line with MHDC.

29. **PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES – CREATION OF MATRIX TO CLARIFY WEIGHTINGS OF “VIABILITY” CLASSIFICATIONS**

Cllr Nick Houghton joined the meeting at 6.18 pm.

The Operations Manager explained that the pick-up was due for replacement now but currently there was very little or no choice when looking at electric replacements for the Town Council’s vehicles.

Cllr Jack Satterthwaite joined the meeting at 6.37 pm.

There were several items to be considered before purchasing a replacement vehicle such as:

- Usage
- Battery life
- Battery charging
- Running costs
- Longevity
- Warranty
- Type of fuel
- Emissions
- Trade-in value

Members discussed whether electric vehicles would soon be replaced with better technology such as hydrogen and therefore whether it would be best to wait a while longer. However, as members wished to set an example of its commitment to the environmental policy,

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council purchases an electric buggy suitable for its needs, subject to the maximum cost being no more than 30% extra to a standard vehicle.

30. **FEEDBACK FROM WALKABOUT TO MTC WILDING SITES WITH LIZ ETHERIDGE AND CATHERINE LAIDLAW**

Cllr Taylor reported that the visit had been very useful; Liz Etheridge had advised on suitable planting for the Elgar roundabout and made suggestions for other areas such as the bank at Victoria Park, which would have some of the larger more invasive weeds removed, allowing natural rewilding to take place.

31. **THE QUEEN’S GREEN CANOPY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022**

Report EP02/21 as received and accepted.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council takes part in the Queen’s Green Canopy scheme and will plant a tree for the Platinum Jubilee 2022.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that a new orchard be created at Greenfield Road with a variety of twenty-five fruit trees being planted.

It was **AGREED** that other sites would be considered for the planting of a Jubilee Tree along with a plaque, and these would be discussed at future meetings of the Environmental Panel.

32. **RECYCLING BINS**

The Operations Manager reported that he and the Town Clerk had met with Catherine Laidlaw and Sarah Rouse of MHDC regarding the District Council’s trial of recycling bins in Priory Park. Unfortunately, the trial had not been successful – recycling bins had been contaminated with non-recyclable rubbish, mostly coffee cups, and the contents had then had to be sent to landfill.

However, the Operations Manager suggested to members of the panel that the Town Council could trial some recycling bins near schools, where there would be much less possibility of coffee cups finding their way into the bins.

It was noted that educating people about the use of recycling bins was very important, and that contamination with rubbish and dog waste was a possibility, but monitoring of the contents would provide feedback on this.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that five recycling bins are purchased at a cost of £2,000 to be placed outside schools in the following locations. The bins would be near rubbish bins but not next to them, to try to avoid cross contamination.

- Dyson Perrins High School – 2 bins
- The Chase High School – 2 bins
- Malvern Cube – 1 bin

The Town Council will work with MHDC on a campaign to promote the use of these new bins.

33. BEAUCHAMP ROAD GREEN

Cllr Taylor updated members on this site. Malvern Community Forest are taking on the management of this land with a 25-year lease being agreed. A 6-month break clause could make it difficult for MCF to make grant applications, however, Cllr Taylor is awaiting clarification on this point and will report to the next meeting. It was suggested that an extra clause be added to the agreement, protecting any expenditure MCF had incurred.

34. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Environmental Panel would be on Thursday 24 February 2022 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.40 pm.

..... Chairman