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**Minutes of the Aylsham Climate Action Meeting
held on Monday 6th December 2021**

Present:

Trevor Bennett	Ray Horne
Pat Prekopp	Sue Catchpole
Ellie Baker	Veronika Goodwin
Michael Dolling	Margaret Hayward
Arthur Rope	Lilie Ferrari
Sue Sharpe	Michael Goodwin
Erica Fisher	William Fisher
Jenny Haycocks	David Harrison

Sue Lake

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from
Annette Overton
Grizelda Tyler
Anna Magyar
Rev Julie Boyd
Steve Riley
Mary Evans

2. Declarations of interest

None were declared

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November were agreed and signed by the chairman

4. Information on Matters Arising from previous minutes

Nothing Raised

By agreement Item 13 was discussed at this point

13. Update on Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council Actions

No details available for Norfolk County Council
Sue Catchpole advised she had spoken with Kirsty Burns, the Broadland Environmental Coordinator who was unable to attend the meeting as she is currently on leave. She has recently been working on information relating to a tree grant which has been received by Town and Parish Councils.

It is early days for Broadland with giving advice on climate change actions and it maybe that information is more likely to come from Aylsham to Broadland rather than the other way round.

It was suggested that North Norfolk may be able to assist with advice and the clerk will contact them.

It is still planned for officers from both the district and county to attend a future meeting

6. To agree the draft aim of the group

A suggestion for the aim was To work towards making Aylsham carbon neutral by 2035.

After discussion it was **AGREED** to amend this to

To work towards making Aylsham carbon neutral by 2030

7. To agree the draft objectives of the Group

The draft objectives were as follows:

- To set out a clear net zero strategy that commits Aylsham Town Council to making climate change a priority.
- To create sub-groups to develop action plans to deliver local solutions to the main causes of greenhouse gas emissions – plastics, energy, waste, transport, ecology Each sub-group to determine its own aims and objectives.
- To establish partnership with national, regional, county, district and local partners and communities to progress clear and positive outcomes for climate action in Aylsham and surrounding villages.
- To monitor delivery of Aylsham Town Council's commitment to Net Zero and ensure scrutiny and consideration of policies, processes and decisions against national legal commitments, as well as declarations of policy
- To communicate agreed recommendations via all media platforms
- To promote behavioural change to combat the causes of climate change

All objectives were discussed in turn and **AGREED**.

Further suggestion had been made but these were felt to be more actions rather than objectives and could be discussed by the various sub-groups.

8. To agree name of the group

This item was deferred from the previous meeting. It was felt that this was a community initiative led by the Town Council rather than a Town Council initiative and it might be best if Town Council was removed from the group name.

Various suggestions were made regarding how a name should be chosen including contacting the schools to ask them to come up with a name. It was felt that this would be a large commitment in the lead up to Christmas when staff at the schools are also dealing with rising covid cases. Instead a request will go out via social media, the council website, and Just Aylsham.

As an interim measure the Group will be known as **Aylsham Climate Action**.

9. To consider branding of the group

This item was also deferred from the last meeting and will need to be decided after the name is chosen.

10. Carbon Audits

Individual Audits - The Town Clerk had researched some online climate audits for individuals. The initial idea was to undertake the survey with the chairman’s details but it was agreed that the link would be sent to members to try for themselves.

Council Audit – The Town Clerk had contacted the Carbon Trust to see if they could undertake an audit of the council. Unfortunately, they are at capacity at the moment and could not do it. It was suggested asking either North Norfolk District Council or the UEA to see if they could help.

11. Review of Town Council Activities in relation to climate change policies

Allotments – The only issue here would be the use of plastic in sheds and poly tunnels and the disposal of plastic flowerpots. However, a local garden center is working on a plan for recycling these.

Cemetery – a large percentage of the flowers left on graves are plastic and this is such a delicate subject could take time to address

Grass Cutting – this is undertaken twice a week in the summer months. Most of the grass is either recreational or verges and requires shorter grass. It was asked if there could be larger margins left uncut at places like the Rec

Markets – no real issues here that could be addressed

Neighbourhood Plan – this is being looked at to ‘green’ some of the policies

Street Lighting – this was converted to LED’s last year

Toilets – some of the initial green issues were removed when re-furbished as they did not work and caused problems with smell and ingress of plants

Town Hall & Drill Hall – both venues will need new boilers in the near future but the technology for a boiler to heat such large spaces is not great. Some issues would need to be agreed with the conservation officer at Broadland

Vehicles – the Town Council have just changed the van to an electric van

12. Communications Group

It was felt that this would be one of the most important factors of the group and would expect a representative from each sub-group to be on the Communications Team.

14. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed at the last meeting that the meetings would be held the first Monday of the month. However, in January that is a Bank Holiday so no meeting will be held in January. Instead the next meeting will be **7th February**

Dates for 2022 are as follows:

7 th March	1 st August
4 th April	5 th September
2 nd May – Bank Holiday suggest following week 9 th May	3 rd October
6 th June	7 th November
4 th July	5 th December

The meeting closed at 9.00pm