



LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

To: Councillors H Pakenham (Chair), N Mahony, Mortuza, L Winstone
Mr A Osborne, Mrs J Barker

7 April 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE** to be held on **TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021, AT 7PM, TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY**

Please contact the Clerk parishclerk@londoncolney-pc.gov.uk for details to access the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

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Emma Payne
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
To receive declarations of interests relating to matters on the agenda.
- 3. MINUTES**
To approve minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021 (attached).

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

To review any matters arising from the last meeting not appearing on the agenda

4.1 Dog Fouling on Parish Council controlled land

4.2 Eco Audits

4.3 Tree Survey

4.4 Flowerbed sponsorship

5. CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

To consider the attached climate change and biodiversity action plan and to recommend to Council its adoption.

8. ALLOTMENTS

To receive a verbal report on allotments and arrange a site visit for May 2021.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2021, 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors H Pakenham (Chair), L Winstone, Mr A Osborne, Mrs Barker

IN ATTENDANCE: E Payne, Clerk

The meeting was not quorate with only two Members present, therefore the meeting proceeded as a working party, with all decisions to be ratified by Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mahony (health). Cllr Mortuza was absent.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mrs Barker declared a personal, pecuniary interest in item 8 as an allotment tenant.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

4.1 Dog Fouling on Parish Council Controlled Land

Members were advised that the Clerk had extended the date for submissions for the evidence base submissions, until the end of February 2021. She will report to a future meeting.

4.2 Eco Audits

Members were asked to consider this under item 7.

4.3 Tree Survey

Members were advised that the Clerk had not progressed this matter.

4.4 Flowerbed Sponsorship

Members were advised that the Clerk had not progressed this matter.

5. BARNET ROAD BRIDGE REPAIRS

Members received a report outlining the request from George Osborne Ltd, the contractor appointed by Herts Highways, to undertake the bridge repairs, to locate a welfare facility in the car park at St Peter's Car Park. The Clerk reported that she had met with the contractor on site and they had explained the nature of the request. The Clerk had also liaised with the Parochial Church Council at St Peter's to advise them of the proposal. The Clerk explained that the works would be undertaken during the summer, when the water level is lower. The river would be dammed with the water pumped through the bridge, which would enable the foundations to be repaired.

Members considered the report and raised some matters relating wildlife and sound levels for the generator operating the pumps which will be passed back to the contractor. Members considered that repairs and cleaning of the railings should be included in the scheme and the Clerk will ascertain if this is planned. The Clerk suggested that there

should be an article in the June edition of the newsletter advising residents of the project. It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

George Osborne Ltd is granted a temporary licence for the use of an area of St Peter's Car Park for the period of 10 weeks, at a date to be determined.

6. MEMORIAL BENCH APPLICATION

Members received a report on a request for a Memorial bench at Lowbell Lake. It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

The Application for a Memorial Bench at Lowbell Lake is approved.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Members received a report outlining a proposed Environmental Policy to be adopted by the Council and a proposal to draft a Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan.

Members considered the recommendation and considered that a basic plan with targets that were SMART would be the preferred option. Members were asked to contact the Clerk will suggestions for items for inclusion in the draft plan, to be considered at the next meeting. It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

- a) ***The Environmental Policy outlined in the report is adopted by Council.***
- b) ***A Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan, working in conjunction with Herts County Council and St Albans District Council, is drafted for consideration at the next meeting.***

8. ALLOTMENTS

Members received a report outlining proposed changes to the allotment tenancy agreement. These amendments had been incorporated following training that the Administration Officer had recently undertaken. It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that:

The amended allotment tenancy agreement is adopted for use from 1 April 2021.

Mrs. Barker declared a personal interest in item 7 as an allotment tenant.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13 April 2021

The meeting closed at 1935.

Signed

Date

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

DATE: 13 APRIL 2021

REPORT BY: EMMA PAYNE, CLERK

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY POLICY

1. SUMMARY

At the Environment & Neighbourhood Committee meeting held on 9 February 2021 a strategic level, Environmental Policy was adopted. This report outlines a more specific climate change and biodiversity policy to be considered by this committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to consider the attached policy and recommend its adoption by Council.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 After the adoption of an environmental policy on 9 February, the Clerk was asked to draw up a more detailed plan how the Council could make a change to its operation and work with stakeholders and partners in implementing change for the future.

3.2 The policy attached has been devised to consider what changes we can affect that relate to the council's estate and how to work with partners and stakeholders to encourage residents to consider their carbon footprint.

3.3 The policy highlights current practices; quick wins; longer term projects and higher aspirations. The latter two items would need to be more fully considered as it would have an implication on budgets: especially the replacing of the council's current vehicles (diesel) to hybrid or electric vehicles.

3.4 This is not a definitive list but a discussion document.

4. FINANCE

There are no immediate financial implications, but longer-term projects will need to be costed budgeted for.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Strategic Plan | N/A |
| Equalities | N/A |
| Environmental/Sustainability/Climate | Supports Council's Environment Policy |
| Crime & Disorder | N/A |
| Financial | Long term financial obligations |
| Resources (including workforce) | Investment in equipment |
| Risk Management | N/A |

LONDON COLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

London Colney Parish Council has an Environmental Policy Statement which represents a high level, but comprehensive commitment to minimising the environmental impacts of the Council's operations within its own estate. Whilst it cannot explicitly address the impact of environmental changes that originate externally, it makes a clear commitment to identify and management environmental risks and hazards. This document sets out how the Council will identify those risks and undertake relevant mitigation.

The Council should consider the evolving natural environment we are experiencing and prepare for the future by identifying the hazards and considering mitigation for the risk.

What are the plans objectives?

Our climate change and biodiversity plan will address two areas: how we operate and how we inspire our residents. It needs to distinguish between planned activities that relate to:

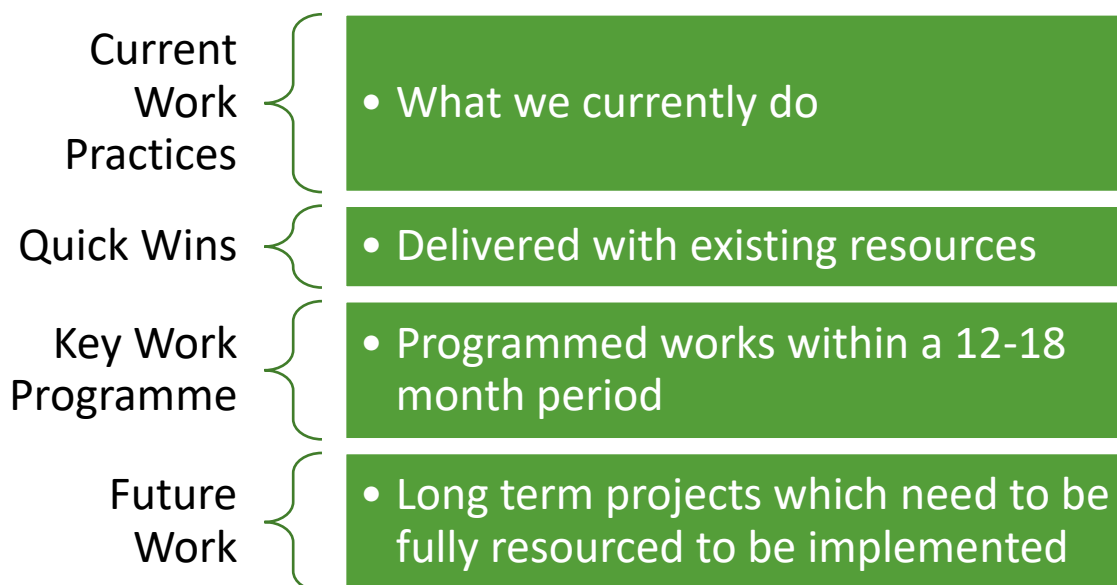
- The Parish Council estate i.e., where the council has full control over the outcomes and
- Community engagement: stakeholder support and lobbying i.e., where the Council can exercise some influence over the outcome but does not have full control.

Making this distinction enables us to manage the expectations of residents with regards to what the Council is empowered to deliver with regards to Climate Action and Environmental sustainability. It also helps provide clarity around how the Council can allocate resources and the extent to which activities are to be community, Member or officer led.





How will we implement this policy?



It is proposed that wherever possible the Council should:

- Seek in the first instance to fund activities through existing income streams, i.e., through continuing to make environmentally conscious decisions when updating, maintaining, and renovating property.
- Explore grant funding options where there is no existing income stream.
- Consider Salix¹ Loans where available and only in proportion to the environmental risk that the planned activity seeks to mitigate.
- Consider raising funds from an increase to the precept only where necessary, and only in proportion to the environmental risk that the planned activity seeks to mitigate.

¹ See <https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans/parish-councils>

We will consider the following categories to work within:

- Carbon footprint reduction – consider all our actions in line with reducing the Council’s carbon footprint.
- Plastic reduction – ban the use of single use plastics at council events and activities.
- Waste reduction – consider the use of resources considering their end life as waste.
- Biodiversity and trees – this has an important role to play in carbon reduction as well as contributing to health, diverse ecosystems.
- Climate change readiness – how we prepare for a world in which extreme weather events are much more commonplace.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTIVITY PLAN

| Current Work practices |
|--|
| Investment – all parish council investments should be invested in low risk, sustainable banks or investment funds |
| Soap dispensers in toilets are refillable |
| Refreshments at meetings use reusable crockery etc |
| Straws are not used at bar unless assistance required with drinking (paper straws) |
| Staff try, where possible to bring their own lunch to work, reducing single use plastics |
| Paper used for printing and copying is recyclable |
| Wastepaper (non-confidential) is reused for note taking |
| All copies are double sided |
| Mixed recycling operated in kitchen and offices |
| Councillors encouraged to receive agendas and reports by email |
| Wood chippings produced in house are used on parish council sites |
| All invitations to parish council events are sent by email |
| Quick Wins |
| Use glasses instead of plastic cups after using current stocks up |
| No usage of single use condiments |
| Actively support small and large planning applications for new renewable energy in the area |
| Continue to replace all felled trees with native trees that are of the highest possible benefit to wildlife and use the felled wood for habitat piles |
| Use the Neighbourhood Plan to require new homes to be energy efficient, nature friendly, and located close to public transport and amenities. Neighbourhood Plans identify sites for future housing and should push for these to be zero-carbon and nature friendly. |
| Instigate Neighbourhood Plan policy to plant two trees for every tree removed due to development |
| Designate and protect sites within the Neighbourhood Plan as local green spaces, new play spaces (formal and informal) and green infrastructure networks, encouraging local residents into the fresh air, walking or cycling rather than using their cars for local journeys |
| Goods and services are purchased locally and in bulk, where possible, to reduce mileage and packaging. |
| All water meters are regularly read and monitored, with action taken immediately to identify reasons when they are high, minimising water loss if there is a leak |
| All woodchip produced by Ground Staff is used locally for mulch or on allotment |
| Develop Walsingham Way as a specific habit site including installing additional bird nesting boxes. |
| Support local litter picking groups with equipment and rubbish disposal |
| Regular article in newsletter to encourage residents on green activities. |

| Key Work Programme 12 – 18 months | |
|---|--------------|
| Switch to green energy when the council's utilities are due to renewal in 2022 and commit to 3-year minimum contract | October 2022 |
| Undertake a carbon footprint benchmark | June 2021 |
| Grounds staff use electric motor trimmers and leaf blowers which are battery operated | April 2022 |
| Work with HCC to identify verges to be replaced with wildflowers | October 2021 |
| Identify sites within parish council control for wildflower sites | June 2021 |
| Encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging points at District Council sites in the village. | Ongoing |
| Tenancy agreements sent out and allotment payments made electronically | April 2022 |
| Stop using peat-based compost | April 2021 |
| | |
| | |
| Future Work | |
| New heating systems installed in council buildings are chosen to be environmentally friendly | |
| Replacement of council vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles. An earmarked reserve will need to be built up for this purpose. | |
| Energy audit for all parish council buildings to identify reduction in energy waste | |
| Explore funding opportunities for energy waste reduction measures on all parish council owned buildings | |
| Installation of public water drinking fountains adjacent to parish council operated buildings | |
| Reduce pesticide use | |

This plan has been drafted using the resources listed below:

<https://local.gov.uk/un-sustainable-development-goals-guide-councils>

<https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/>

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-change>

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/climate-change/3297-climate-change-case-studies/file>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/218799/tackling-climate-change.pdf

[RTPI | Place-Based Approaches to Climate Change](#)

[Ways to tackle Climate Change \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Adapting to climate change: A guide to local councils \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Why neighbourhood plans should tackle climate change | Centre for Sustainable Energy \(cse.org.uk\)](#)

[Parish, Town and Community Councils | Salix Finance](#)