



**Minutes of the Environment Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Members Present:

Cllr A Britcher – Allan (ABA), Cllr A Taylor (AT), Cllr Liz Ellicott (LE), Cllr P Gripper (PG)

Non-voting members; Jenny Blackburn; Jayne Sharratt & Phillip Wheeler

Officer Present: None

In Attendance: None

Members of the Public: None

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting
No

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence
None

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
No

4. Declarations of Lobbying
No

5. Open session for questions from the public:
N/A

6 i. Minutes 17th January 2022
Approved by all and signed by the chair.

ii. Matters outstanding from last minutes

Emergency Declaration was approved at PC and thought good. One councillor asked why no date by which to achieve things. PW said have to focus on short term goals rather than longer ones.

Letter to Cheese Pizza about bike racks believed to be outstanding to be done - refer to Clerk.

Electrical charging points – we are still on KCC list but no update yet.

Housing insulation scheme- new grant from government meant to be launching this month.

Visual safety survey – in progress but no update yet.

7. Rackliff Centre boiler

Cllr Ellicott reports that there is recommendation to replace boiler, and PC has referred to EC task of researching options for replacing the old gas boiler with renewable energy instead. General agreement that it should be replaced with greenest energy we can – a heat pump. PW said heat pumps can definitely heat large spaces such as the RC. Discussion that we need to research the options and find a local installer who can do it at a price PC can afford

Action points – Cllr Taylor and JS to ask local contacts who have installed heat pumps for advice/names of installers. Cllr Ellicott says several PCs have installed heat pumps so we could ask them how they are working.

It has been decided that we will research how to go about it and report back at future EC meeting. Also find out if building is as insulated as it can be, and if PC wants solar panels too. Would need a feasibility study of the roof, how much sunlight. Cllr Britcher will ask Cllr Edwards if he knows about the retrofit.

8. Thermal Imaging Camera

PW reports cameras are a significant investment - a serious decision to make. EC will need a plan to make sure we make good use of it. Some discussion about what this will involve. Don't need expertise to use it.

JB says write to Town and Country/Peabody group asking what they are going to do. Cllr Britcher to email T & C.

Need a plan – full list of options for people to take eg from a £10 draft excluder to a heat pump and insulation – it is very expensive.

Cllr Britcher says we can start making people aware. JS to write article for July RL letting people know about the thermal image camera and government grants of £5-6,000 for first 90,000 applications which will make it a similar price to replacing a gas boiler for those who can afford it.

LE to compile a list of easily implemented and affordable 'life hacks' to reduce heat loss from homes.

Cllr Taylor suggests we can we do a village presentation in a church hall when we have camera.

PW – it would be good if we could be ready for Autumn when people start to put heating on and worry about their bills.

PW to send details of 2 or 3 cameras for the rest of the committee to look at. Need to have got a decision by 13th June to take it to finance committee to have the camera by the Autumn.

Cllr Britcher to speak to Alison about getting in touch with SPC to see if they will share or rent from us.

9. Recycling stations around the village

Asking for soft plastic recycling in the village at the One Stop. Action point Cllr Britcher and Ellicott to contact One Stop. Also Cllr Britcher to ask about public recycling.

10. Update on litter picking event

Cllr Taylor reports 12 to 14 people turned up. All went in different directions and areas for one hour. Collected quite a few bags of rubbish. Need a new date for the next litter pick. Discussion of problem with litter in the High Street. Need better bins with a cover. A success, good to build on.

Action Cllr Britcher to speak to Edwin at TWBC about replacing bins with lidded ones.

Cllr Taylor to suggest some dates for future litter picks.

11. Community Emergency Response Pack update.

Cllr Britcher reports this is a comprehensive document of what to do in event of emergency and therefore worth having. Paul, Jenny, Alex and Phil to meet to form working party to work on the contents of Emergency Response Pack.

12. Solar Together Kent

Cllr Ellicott reports that this is a solar panel and battery group purchase scheme run by KCC that she applied for (deadline for her decision is 15 May 2022). Some discussion of her recommendation. Usually takes 10-15 years to earn back initial outlay of installing the panels, but they also add value to the house when it is sold.

13. Items for information

Discussion about the land close to Peacocks Farm that might be for sale by Powell family.

Suggestion we keep an eye on Green Frog Farm, off Nellington Road.

Please can the clerk be instructed to send agendas to people who are not councillors.

14. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 18th July 2022

The meeting closed at 9pm.

..... Chairman

Dated