

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group held on
Thursday, 10 July 2008 at 10.00am

Councillors:	Mrs VG Ford Dr SA Harangozo Ms BZD Smith (substitute) Dr SEK van de Ven	R Hall Dr DR de Lacey PW Topping
Officers:	Richard Hales Ian Senior Kate Wood	Strategic Sustainability Officer Democratic Services Officer Principal Planning Officer (Major Developments)

Councillor NN Cathcart was in attendance, by invitation.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor AN Berent and CR Nightingale.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor VG Ford nominated Councillor Dr SA Harangozo as Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group. This was seconded by Councillor R Hall and, there being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Dr SA Harangozo be elected Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group for 2008-09.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor VG Ford nominated Councillor P Topping as Vice-Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group. This was seconded by Councillor R Hall and, there being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor P Topping be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group for 2008-09.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests were declared as follows:

- Councillor Dr SA Harangozo as Chairman of the Comberton Renewable Energy Group
- Councillor Dr DR de Lacey as a member of Sustainable Girton
- Councillor BZD Smith as Manager of the Gamlingay Eco Hub project

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Climate Change Working Group approved, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2008.

5. UPPER CAMBOURNE PLANNING APPLICATION - UPDATE

The Principal Planning Officer (Major Developments) updated Members on developments

in Cambourne, relating the following comments in particular to the planning application for an additional 950 dwellings at Upper Cambourne.

- the Local Planning Authority considered character of the area to be as important as, if not more important than, density alone
- officers were working with service providers to make sure that services to the community were at least maintained at a high level and, where possible, were enhanced
- officers were seeking Section 106 Heads of Terms by the end of August
- the aim was to present the planning application to the Planning Committee meeting on 5 November 2008
- a two megawatt wind turbine would be integral to the proposal at Upper Cambourne
- demographics would have significant implications in the short to medium term for demand on education and recreation facilities, and on health services.
- The code for sustainable homes would play an important role in determining the extent of contributions to be sought under the linked legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- education was needed in order to promote the concept of building for wildlife

Members added the following comments:

- Upper Cambourne should incorporate a Sustainable Urban Drainage System, allotments and public rights of way
- The Council needed to make it clear what level of community gain it expected to see from the proposed development
- The Council should be proactive in encouraging the Energy4All shared ownership finance model for wind turbines
- The community benefits of wind energy should be properly assessed
- Cambridgeshire County Council should be urged to insist on a zero-carbon new school, but South Cambridgeshire District Council should be aware that this might have a negative effect on Section 106 contributions in other areas of potential community gain

6. UTILISING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES WITHIN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Members discussed the report at some length, focussing in particular on the following issues:

- the desirability of gathering information both from parishes with the benefit of mains gas and parishes without
- the need to select preferred technologies rather than trying to embrace every form of technology, some of which might not be appropriate within South Cambridgeshire
- risks to the Authority
- available resources
- effectiveness of investment
- the importance of making sure that the selection of parishes was sufficient to provide a meaningful set of data
- the relevance of public buildings within the overall aim
- the community leadership role of the Climate Change Working Group

Members agreed to consider the report in more detail at an informal meeting on 17 July

2008.

7. CONSULTATION ON A UK RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

The Chairman said that the Government must commit fully to this process, thus enabling renewable energy to flourish at a community level by linking it directly to householder commitments to install insulation and low energy devices. Members' attention was drawn specifically to the need for increased generation of heat in the UK from renewable sources such as solar and biomass. Meanwhile, South Cambridgeshire District Council must explore ways of achieving similar goals within the district by engaging residents in a holistic way.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next formal meeting of the Climate Change Working Group would be on Thursday 18 September 2008, starting at 10.00am.

The Meeting ended at 12.55 p.m.
