

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group held on
Thursday, 15 May 2008 at 10.00am

PRESENT: Councillor Dr SA Harangozo – Chairman

Councillors: AN Berent R Hall
Dr SEK van de Ven

Officers: Richard Hales Strategic Sustainability Officer
Ian Senior Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors NN Cathcart, Dr DR Bard, JA Hockney, CR Nightingale and MP Howell.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor SA Harangozo declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Comberton Renewable Energy Group.

45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Climate Change Working Group approved, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2008.

In connection with Minute no. 40 (Melbourn Village College – drama project), Members asked that the Strategic Sustainability Officer consider how best to build on the enthusiasm of those involved with the production.

In connection with Minute no. 41 (Energy saving in schools and community buildings), Members asked that the Strategic Sustainability Officer explore the possibility of partnership working with Cambridgeshire County Council.

46. UTILISING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES WITHIN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Gareth Ellis, Project Leader with Enviros, was in attendance to assist Members with this matter.

Further to Minute no. 39, Members considered a draft report prepared by Enviros Consulting Ltd in March 2008.

The Chairman highlighted the need for the Climate Change Working Group to

- Identify its objectives in respect of renewable energy resources
- establish its role as a reference group for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) on such matters
- arrange a workshop, as early as June 2008, directly involving the LSP and a number of identified stakeholders

Those present discussed the following:

- the need to highlight community projects
- showcasing the concept of community wind power
- financial aspects of encouraging energy efficiency, the use of match funding opportunities and the possibility of using LSP Award monies

- multipliers
- the social structure of South Cambridgeshire
- the leadership and publicity roles of the District Council
- a holistic approach to the subject

The Chairman said that the Council should target its support in the first instance and, in particular, encourage and promote individual green villages and schools. It could then build on its successes.

The Strategic Sustainability Officer suggested that the Council should be seeking to address a broad cross-section of South Cambridgeshire residents, requiring it to devise methods and arguments that would command wide appeal not only amongst those who aspired to reducing their carbon footprint but also those for whom the most important issue was to reduce costs in the context of rapidly increasing fossil fuel prices.

47. NORTHSTOWE

The Chairman observed that there was ongoing convergence of views as held by the Climate Change Working Group and Local Planning Authority. The important issue now was to persuade the joint promoters of Northstowe to acknowledge the concerns expressed and work with the Council to secure a development that embraced as many council expectations as possible on the issue of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Climate Change Working Group agreed that the Council's Director of Joint Planning should be invited to its next meeting to discuss progress of the Northstowe planning application.

48. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP - DRAFT FORWARD PLAN 2008-09

The Climate Change Working Group considered a forward plan for 2008-09, drafted in May 2008.

As priority areas, the Climate Change Working Group identified the following:

- Business and commercial carbon reduction (Theme C – Community leadership)
- Community Renewables (a South Cambridgeshire District Council-led Local Strategic Partnership project) (Theme C – Community Leadership)
- Northstowe (Theme A – Growth Areas and Land Use Planning)
- Procurement (Theme B – Own estate and operations)
- Website (a South Cambridgeshire District Council-led LSP project) (Theme C – Community leadership)
- Working with parishes and schools (Theme C – Community Leadership)

Members approved as additional items on the forward plan

- Energy conservation of Listed Buildings
- National Indicators relating to climate change
- Secure bike areas at bus stops
- Sheltered housing energy audit

The Climate Change Working Group suggested that the Scrutiny and Overview Committee might wish to review the issue of recycling, focussing (in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council) on initiatives in schools.

As part of the agenda for the Climate Change Working Group meeting in July 2008, the Chairman instructed the Strategic Sustainability Officer to arrange for a Cambourne

presentation to be made and for Members to be given the opportunity to consider appropriate revisions to the Council's climate change policy. He stressed the importance of the Working Group strengthening its engagement with the Local Strategic Partnership process, and remaining strategically focussed.

49. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that, during 2008-09, the Climate Change Working Group was scheduled to meet at 10.00am on 10 July 2008, 18 September 2008, 13 November 2008, 8 January 2009, 12 March 2009 and 14 May 2009.

The Meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.
