

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee held via Zoom, on Monday 21 October 2024 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors J Blackman (Chair) and Councillors, K. Farrelly, R Harvey-Coggins, A Rushton, and E Strain.

Lichfield District Council Officers, James Porter, and Alex Lane.

APOLOGIES: Councillor A. Lax.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION.

Councillor J Blackman declared an interest in agenda item 4.2 (Minute 7.2) as his businesses are heavily involved in carbon sequestering.

6. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING.

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 24 July 2024].*

7. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES.

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's agenda report detailing progress on identified priorities since the previous meeting:

1. Bicycle Repair Stations.

The location – adjacent to Speakers Corner – was agreed by the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee at its meeting of 26 June. The station was delivered in late July and installed on 2 August.

Councillor E Strain requested that a sign or handle be put on the door of the cycle station to indicate it was not locked as he had received representations that users had found the tools difficult to access.

2. Carbon Sequestering.

Members discussed with District Council Officers James Porter and Alex Lane various projects which the District Council are working on.

These included.

- a) Green Streets – an initiative to identify streets in need of greening and the planting of more trees which could incorporate nesting boxes and bug hotels.
- b) A pilot scheme to introduce a variety of grasses in both Beacon Park, Lichfield, and Redwood Park, Burntwood to encourage greater biodiversity.
- c) A consultation to turn a portion of the Golf course in Beacon park over to wild flowering.

LDC Officers also took the time to explain to members how Biodiversity Units are calculated, the legal requirements of selling them and the threshold required to register with natural England and DEFRA.

RESOLVED: *That the District Council Officers comments be noted and Members decide how to progress further and if any projects could be worked on collaboratively with LDC. Members to provide a further update at the next meeting.*

3. Collaboration with Woodlands Trust.

Members considered the range of resources and possible actions suggested by the Woodlands Trust as detailed at **AGENDA APPENDIX 1**

Councillor J Blackman suggested LCC issue a press release to incentivise more planting in the local community to increase biodiversity and to look at a long-term strategy with the Woodlands Trust to identify suitable sites to plant more trees.

Councillor E Strain asked if any additionally could be added to the 'wetlands' around the City such as streams and brooks.

RESOLVED: That as per the one of the Woodlands Trust suggestions the CCBD committee look at ways to incentivise more planting in the community. Members to discuss how they wish to work with the Woodlands Trust and provide a further update at the next meeting.

4. Solar Panels on LCC Buildings.

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerks report at **AGENDA APPENDIX 2** and felt this would be a good opportunity for the Council to reduce its carbon footprint but recognised that more detailed information was required. Councillor R Harvey-Coggins noted the cost implications and the wider impact on the Councils' overall finances.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Town Clerk conduct further feasibility studies to gain a better understanding of costs involved, notably those of a structural engineer and the addition of batteries to the system.

5. Carbon Literacy Certification.

Members noted the course requirements at **AGENDA APPENDIX 3** and nominated Councillors K Farrelly and A Rushton to attend the course on 8 & 15 January 2025.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted and matters progressed as individually discussed.

[Deputy Town Clerks note, both Councillors have subsequently been booked on the course as requested.]

8. OTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE.

Councillor J Blackman suggested that the City Council website include a habitat management plan detailing future projects with timescales. The Deputy Town Clerk commented that this would be possible once the CCBD had determined an action plan.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 12 February at 6.00pm in the Moulton Room, Guildhall

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.06pm**