

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

7pm on Thursday 20TH January 2022

Present: Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Rosemary Walker, Carla Bilenkyj, Vicky Morgan, Steve Filo and Gill Cameron Webb.

Copies to: Howard Hughes, Brian Carpenter, Maz Dufall and Mike Jeffries.

1. The meeting welcomed new members Vicky Morgan and Steve Filer. Steve has contacts with the school which will be very useful for getting the younger generation involved in Climate Change.

Maz Dufall and Anne Mitchell have also expressed interest in joining the group.

2. Climate Change

Carla will get hold of the Exeter University report which shows an average 16ton of Co2 is created per household in the parish with road transport being the top cause, so we can discuss it at the next meeting.

Howard will arrange for 'Dawn' to speak with Exeter University to get a breakdown of their underlying data and see if it's possible to use it as a benchmark for future climate change improvements.

Carla will get a copy of Exmouth's Climate Emergency Plan and Gill will get a copy of Sidmouth's Green Plan to see if we can use them to create climate change initiatives in our own parish.

3. Nature Recovery Project

The East Devon AONB Board wants to do a Nature Recovery Project in two parishes, including ours! We can go to the presentation they will be giving at the Parish Council meeting at 7pm on 31 January in the Pavilion.

4. Traffic Calming

As traffic is the top creator of carbon in the parish the group believes all traffic safety initiatives should take climate change into account as a matter of course.

On 7th January the DCC Road Safety Manager walked the A3052 through Newton Poppleford with Councillors and residents and advised how it could be made safer. The Parish Council will now draft a Traffic Calming Strategy that could include suggestions such as relocating the crossing islands and making them bigger, removing white lines, removing 'ghost lanes', building new pavements and installing more solar speed panels. The parish has to fund improvements unless they can be included in planned highways work or new developments (e.g. at Waterleat).

Although DDC insist that a 20mph speed limit isn't permitted on A roads, it should still be pursued if it reduces carbon footprint.

The Parish Council is also trying to push more sustainable travel such as creating cycle paths. There's £25k allocated for improving footpath 1 but work is currently being held up by legal discussions.

5. Bulbs

£90 of daffodil and crocus bulbs was planted around Harpford, Venn Ottery and Newton Poppleford during December. It's too late to buy more bulbs this season but more can be planted late 2022.

Geraldine will ask residents to donate bulbs that no longer flower due to being overcrowded for replanting on parish land. Advertising could include Parish Magazine, Facebook and posters.

6. Tree Planting

Diary Dates – all invited to come along if you're able!

1pm on 24th January - Ted and Gill will meet in Newton Poppleford Churchyard and walk round the three villages to find places to plant three specimen trees to celebrate the Jubilee. Howard's advice to be sought on the best variety of tree.

10am on 4th February - Rosemary and Gill will pot up the 30 trees from the Woodland Trust, meeting at Bowhayes.

10am on 16th February – everyone to plant the new Jubilee Copse in Webber's Meadow. It will go to the left of the entrance and north of the bonfire spot. We can use the canes and protectors provided by the Woodland Trust. A tree donated by 'Anne Mitchell' could be planted in the Copse.

23rd February - Kings Garden Centre will be giving away trees which we could pot up for planting on parish land. More information awaited from Geraldine.

Jubilee Walk - a 1½ to 2 mile Jubilee walk was discussed which Ted and Rosemary will propose to the Parish Council. The walk will illustrate the beauty of our surrounding countryside and it might be good to highlight some specimen trees on the route. The walk could end with a formal opening of the new Jubilee Copse and a picnic at the Pavilion.

More Parish Trees – The Parish Council has £3k allocated for more trees so Ted and Howard will decide where they could be planted on Parish Land (to be arranged for when Howard has time).

7. Wildflower Meadow

Ted strimmed sections of the meadow and broadcast wildflower seeds that Geraldine had collected and yellow rattle seed donated by Dave Ludlow.

Ted will speak to the new Parish Clerk about letting a separate contract for cutting and baling the meadow grass and scarifying the surface (Dan Clatworthy and Roger Kimber could do this).

8. Sports Field Waxcap Fungus*

Although the Fungus Foray group say our sports field is the best site in East Devon for the rare Wax Cap fungus, the grass is kept short for playing football.

To allow the fungus to grow, the Parish Council will be asked to change the grass cutting regime so that the areas around the football pitches are not cut during the autumn (c/f)

*these fungus are not for eating but they're not dangerously poisonous.

9. Bat/Bird/Bee Boxes (not discussed)

This year's scouts are too young for making bird/bee boxes but Howard might be able to programme it in for next term.

10. Storing Climate Change documents (not discussed)

Howard will set up a Dropbox or Sharepoint area as a central place for saving Climate Change documents until the new Parish Clerk can be asked to find an area on the parish council website.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm on (date tba) in the Pavilion.