



Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 16 March 2020

Present: Borough Councillor Gregor Murray (WBC Executive Member for Climate Emergency), Cllr Ken Newland, Cllr Seona Turtle, Cllr Janet Rogers, Cllr Lesley Foxwell, Cllr Darren Latimer, Cllr Nicholas Martin, Katy Hughes (Clerk), five residents of the parish.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs Doreen Dye, Bob Gough, Cris Lancaster, Aaron Plume, Paul Stephens, Janet Cannon and Borough Councillor Angus Ross.

1. Welcome by Chairman of Wokingham Without Parish Council, Councillor Ken Newland

Cllr Newland welcomed attendees and thanked them for coming.

2. Presentation from Borough Councillor Gregor Murray, Executive Member for Climate Emergency

Borough Councillor Murray gave a presentation outlining the work the borough council is doing to tackle the climate emergency, and to work to achieve carbon neutral status by 2030.

He reported that the borough's calculation of its carbon production is approximately 3.6T per resident, per year, with Wokingham Without's share approximately 25-27,000 tonnes.

He reported that the borough's questionnaire have suggested 70 pages of possible steps and solutions, and all of these are measured to consider whether they are practical, achievable and sustainable.

The borough's plan is focusing on eight key areas:

- Taking back control of energy generation
- Establishing a 'green bank' to help residents fund the installation of solar panels on their homes
- Looking at the borough's policies to encourage developers to build new homes to better building standards
- Looking at local transport
- Education in schools on recycling and reusing
- Increasing rates of local recycling, to work towards zero waste to landfill
- Planting 250,000 trees a year
- Creating an education program for residents

Borough Councillor Murray spoke about the suggested activities that parish councils and individuals could undertake to support the initiative.

Questions:

Cllr Rogers asked whether time should be added as a test for proposals, i.e. they should be practical, achievable, sustainable and time bound, plus consider the impact of external factors. Councillor Murray agreed that some solutions are quicker to deliver than others, and that time was an important factor, given the aim for the borough to achieve carbon neutral by 2030.

An attendee asked whether people know how best to plant trees and whether residents would have access to saplings in the UK? Councillor Murray reported that the borough council is working with Squires Garden Centres to grow trees to various sizes.

3. Wokingham Without Parish Council 2019-20 Annual Report

Cllr Newland gave a report on the activities of the council over the 2019-20 civic year to date. He reported that it had been an exceptional and productive year for the council.

A copy of the chairman's annual report can be found on the website:

4. Open Forum

There were no questions from member of the public.

The meeting ended at 20:40