



**NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH
FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE, MARDEN MEMORIAL
HALL, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN**

30. PRESENT:

Cllrs Matt Besant, Anne Boswell, Ian Newton, Adrian Rabot, Mike Summersgill, Andy Turner. A member of the public (SF) was also in attendance.

31. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

32. NOTES FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2023:

The notes of this meeting were agreed.

33. EARTH CHARTER PROJECT:

SF gave an interesting presentation on this project and Cllrs agreed to take to Amenities Committee to consider endorsing. SF was thanked and hopefully we can take this project forward in the parish. If the project is endorsed, the plan will be to hold a brainstorming session and take the basic principles (3-4 at a time) to look at what actions we are able to do. Cllr Boswell will prepare a report to take proposal to Amenities Committee on 27th February 2024.

34. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

See Actions from Environmental Sub-Group meeting document – noted. This will be updated following this meeting.

35. PARISH COUNCILS' ENVIRONMENT NETWORK (PCEN)

Cllr Summersgill, as Chairman of the PCEN, circulated the notes of the meeting held on 16th January. Cllrs considered if MPC wanted to be part of this group or keep as a separate group. It was felt that Cllrs attend both groups which will help local parish councils link in with each other and exchange good practice. It was agreed that Cllrs Besant and Boswell attend the next PCEN meeting on Wednesday 20th March to be held at Hunton Village Club at 7.00pm

36. NALC CLIMATE EMERGENCY NETWORK SESSION – 5TH FEBRUARY 2024:

The notes had been circulated and noted. Cllr Boswell brought forward those points of interest as separate agenda items. The next session is on Thursday 9th May.

37. MPC BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES:

Cllr Boswell proposed a few minor amendments to the Biodiversity Policy and will send to the Clerk to add to the March Full Council agenda. The Environmental Policy to be unchanged.

38. MPC TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY:

This was discussed at January Amenities Committee. It was proposed that MPC has a separate Hedgerow Management Policy and agreed to keep the Tree Management Policy as it is. This proposal would be raised at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

39. MBC CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER:

The Clerk had printed a copy for the meeting which included Energy Efficiency and Heating Upgrades, New Community Woodland in Yalding, Making Space for Nature (see agenda

item 13), Free Water Saving Devices, VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme and Green Homes Funding. Cllrs proposed that an article be included in the next edition about MPC's Kent Plan Tree initiative and mention other initiatives in the MPC Summer Newsletter and on MPC social media.

40. CARBON LITERACY TRAINING:

Cllr Boswell is now Carbon Literacy Accredited and taken her action out to residents via the Spring Newsletter – becoming a Flexitarian. Cllrs Rabot and Summersgill will be attending the MBC training in March. Cllr Summersgill is expecting to undertake training to Hunton Parish Councillors after he has been trained.

The following ideas was raised from Carbon Literacy training:

Carbon Footprinting tool – already undertaken this exercise but what is the impact of people in our parish and how does MPC engage with different residents? Consider looking at the recent Census data and group residents into types. Cllr Boswell to speak with Cllr Tippen in regard to this.

Thermal Imaging Camera – MBC and/or Kent Fire & Rescue have them and explore if we could hire/borrow and use to look at loss of heat from dwellings and public buildings in the parish. The Clerks to investigate.

Retrofitting – Cllr Besant has asked a resident to provide an article for the newsletter. MPC could look at getting a group of volunteers together e.g. local builders to explore the benefits and speak to the Little Green Energy Company. To be discussed at a future meeting.

Action plan for Climate Emergency – e.g. extend Flood Warden scheme to include Heatwave Wardens – this is not currently in the Kent Resilience Forum. Cllr Summersgill will raise this at the PCEN.

41. KCC MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE RECOVERY:

Marden Wildlife group and the Marden Farming Cluster group are represented on this project and have asked for support from MPC. Cllr Summersgill spoke with Marden Wildlife representatives recently and would report to the next meeting.

42. ENGAGEMENT WITH CURRENT/PROSPECTIVE MPs:

– **Hope for the Future:** It was agreed to take this forward to Amenities. Cllr Boswell would prepare a report to take this proposal to Amenities Committee on 27th February 2024.

43. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL/ZERO HOUR:

What are the implications for parish councils and why MPC should support the Bill? This is being formally reintroduced in the Spring and has the backing of 353 councils etc. Councils are being asked to sign the open letter. It was agreed to take this forward to Amenities. Cllr Boswell would prepare a report to take this proposal to Amenities Committee on 27th February 2024.

44. MBC LINKS:

MBC Officer had emailed Cllr Summersgill on 17th January regarding school resources; KCC Device Recycling Scheme, MBC Climate Change and Biodiversity website. MBC was also hoping to add a Parish Council page. - hoping to add a Parish Council page. Cllr Summersgill advised there was a lot of funding for schools and it was agreed that Cllr Boswell would forward the links to the Principal at Marden Primary Academy.

45. CONTACTING VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS/BUSINESSES:

It was discussed about how MPC engages with village organisations and businesses on their environmental and biodiversity plans. It was suggested we could have an open morning letting the village know what we are doing. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

46. THE GREAT COLLABORATION:

Information received on the above. Cllrs agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

47. PONDS:

Discussed at last meeting about the next project after the tree planting in February at the Cemetery area. Cllrs discussed ponds in the parish which could be restored such as the ponds at the back of Marden Playing Field (owned by Millwood and Redrow) and the pond at the back of the Cemetery – consider speaking to the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) about assisting us with such a project. Cllr Summersgill to investigate whether any funding could be made available with the MVCP. Cllr Boswell will raise about a Pond Warden in the Spring Newsletter. Cllrs agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

48. OTHER ISSUES RAISED:

Cllr Summersgill mentioned the Great Big Green Week being held from 8th to 16th June. However, it was thought there was not enough time to arrange an event at such short notice. Cllrs therefore agreed to discuss at the next meeting to look at what could be done for an event in 2025.

49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The suggested date of the next meeting is Tuesday 30th April at 6pm in the Parish Office.