

Minutes from meeting of Wickham Market Climate Change Working Group 11th February 2025

Present: Gemma Dempsey-Gray GDG, David Chenery DC, Sonya Exton SE, Jennie Greenhalgh JG, Mike Hynes MH, and Pauline Huggins PH.

Apologies: Gloria Creasey, Niki Fowler.

DC – Shared the Draft Terms of Reference with the group for comments. Extensive discussion around these, DC to make small amendments and then pass to the Clerk for action.

Debrief from the event in January concluded that the night was on the whole a successful event. The night did not cost the PC any money, in fact, we were able to put money back into the Climate Change budget from it. We felt that Simon Hooton gave a great deal of information. It was noted that most of the people who attended were already interested in climate change. We were exceptionally grateful for all the volunteers and raffle prizes from local businesses.

GDG asked if we would be putting on an event on the Pightle like two years ago, no other members were available to help organise this and so we are unable to proceed.

Discussion re. the most effective direction for group to focus on e.g. sharing insulation initiatives, learning from what other groups are doing e.g. Transition Woodbridge.

Discussed a possible carbon audit for the PC, GDG had spoken to District Councillor Sally Noble who had advised that this would most likely be costly and not of great value in Wickham Market, but scrutinization of the carbon footprint of Village Hall refurbishment to be highlighted. DC has started this process.

Review of initiatives undertaken so far: 2 climate change events and heat loss surveys under way, tips shared in the Newsletter, regular Deben River testing happening and being supported financially. Litter picks do happen sporadically when members are available to organise.

Highlighting case studies and knowledge sharing would be beneficial e.g. in Wickham News and monthly presence at Saturday market when CCWG members are available.

More liaison with E&L group could be beneficial although we would not wish to join the two groups together. A look at other WMPC policies would be valuable to find shared objectives.

GDG had spoken at length around the environmental impact of decisions the PC make being considered with the Clerk, however, understands that there must be a compromise between delivering services that parishioners need against what could be best for the environment. All councillors agreed the Climate Action Strategy and should be considering environmental impact when making a decision, we do think that this is done, however perhaps we should ask that the Clerk minutes this for others benefit when reading about the meetings.