

## Minutes of Glassonby Parish Council Climate Emergency

### Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Attendees** - Peter Clarke (PC), Richard Henry (RH), David Henderson (DJH), Dori Henderson (DH)

**Apologies** - None

**Confirmation of Minutes** - The minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were agreed.

**Review of last meetings minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021** – items brought to this meeting to add to a potential climate change newsletter included planting of trees and new hedgerows in the Parish, more use of planters (similar to those envisaged by Gamblesby Chapel) as well as advice to gardeners on how to improve diversity, such as bee friendly seeding. One of the parishioners in Gamblesby had recently built a garage block with a green roof. Following Covid restrictions being lifted, a series of public talks in Gamblesby Community Centre on relevant topics of public interest about climate change, including changes in farming practices and what local farmers are doing to help the local environment, could be held. These talks both to educate the laymen and improve awareness of local impacts on the Parish of climate change. In addition it may be useful to define public areas in the Parish to designate as flower meadows to both reduce grass cutting and improve diversity. There are changes coming to farming practices and payments centred round sustainable farming.

**Farming and the Environment** – Discussions centred round the need to connect with Parishioners to help them understand to impacts on the land of the Parish by changes in farming practices forced on the country by climate change. Currently the NFU has a scheme to reduce net carbon to zero by 2040 but this was considered by the meeting to be unrealistic given the work that would be needed to achieve this. Offsetting of carbon was putting pressure on land already under severe stress. There needed to be a change in the use of agricultural and household chemicals.

**Setting up the Face Book Page** – No further update.

**Progress on and actions to reduce Climate Change** – There was a need for Parishioners to understand their household and village carbon footprint. To get an understanding of what was required to determine household carbon footprint DH and DJH agreed to test out the CAfS model to see how easy it was to use and report back to the next meeting, in June. There were questions that needed to be asked about the sustainability of the fortnightly collection of green waste and the carbon footprint of the collection scheme. Would it be more realistic to have a local green waste recycling system in the Parish or each village? There were discussions about the impact of using recycled sewage waste products in the agricultural community.

**Fellfoot Forward Gamblesby Chapel application** – The work to make the planters was about to start when pallets had been collected. Installation and planting was planned for early June.

**Tree Planting Initiative** – This was again discussed, the cost of trees was very low or they may possibly be obtained free. The majority of the cost of planting trees was the stake and tree guard which could be as high as £3.70 per tree. We need a small scheme to get started and test what might be possible and get the Parish's attention. A recent BBC Countryfile programme had highlighted a local scheme run to get trees into people's gardens, this could be considered locally. There would need to be a review of the species and a record of where these were

planted to monitor the effectiveness of such a scheme. Planting trees on Parish land needs to be considered with care as the Parish Council has statutory obligations. As an additional item **DH** and **DJH** would investigate the cost of a wild seed distribution scheme.

**Eden District Council Update** – EDC’s new building planning application had been made for it to be a passive house operation – carbon neutral.

**Co-opting New Members Plans and potential members** – No update

**Funding** – It was agreed that we needed an environmental project for which funding could be sought. It was agreed that the members would bring ideas for possible projects to the next meeting – **ALL**. A wind or water power scheme on the fell is a long term plan, but unrealistic currently. To start with something smaller with wide appeal may be the best route to go.

**Climate Emergency Planning for the Future** – Still a big need to communicate the issues we face, a Newsletter is still most cost effective option reaching all households. The internet (Facebook, WhatsApp and email) has restrictions but still a valuable tool for information transfer. Public meetings, post Covid, may be still an option if the topics grab people’s attention.

#### **Meeting Agreed Actions**

**DH/DJH** to test CAfS household carbon footprint tool and report at next meeting.

**DH/DJH** to cost out a wild seed distribution scheme for next meeting.

**ALL** to bring possible projects to next meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**