

Minutes of the meeting of Coleford Climate Action (CCA) held on Tuesday 3rd October 2023.

Present: Andy Conn, Veryan Conn, Melanie Moulding, Alan Townsend, Teresa Hopkins, Dan Hopkins, Val George, Tony Mayell, Lesley Mayell, Yvonne Hawkins, Allison Still, Gary Gray, Amber Gray, Ros Harwood, Jane Harwood, Janette Kerr, Steve Poole

1. Apologies: Libby Meyrick
2. Minutes for Sept 2023 to be approved. Alan amended section 4, penultimate paragraph, not the CFC but the CSE (Centre for Sustainable Energy) for ideas. Minutes then approved. Melanie thanked Libby for her excellent minutes.
3. Updates on Actions so far

Melanie spoke about the grants provided by the Parish Council for local groups. Dan recommended using the grant to fund the website cost and domain name. More information on this grant can be obtained from the Parish Council website.

Other funding streams mentioned were;

Andy Conn – Wessex Water Nature Fund

Jane Harwood – Radstock Co-op

4. Constitution
Everybody received the constitution. Constitution approved; Andy Conn proposed with Tony seconding
5. Projects – How to move forward

Dan spoke about Somerset Retrofit Accelerator Project (see link below) Ideas to help people make their houses more insulated.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVZ2uDe2S2pJ7aC4mVOvWWIcbbSEnXGpH>

There is also the Somerset Green Directory for more information.

<https://retrofitsomerset.info/>

Dan has very kindly created two FB pages;

the **public** page – Coleford Climate Action (CCA)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/colefordclimateaction>

and the **private** – Coleford Climate Action (project group)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/colefordclimateactionprivate>

Tree Nursey – Veryan explained that herself and a couple of members of the conservation group visited Westbury Sub Mendip to visit the tree nursery to obtain lots of information for replicating something similar in Coleford. This is more for the Coleford Conservation group but will also be of interest to our group too.

The seeds would be collected with the correct permissions received and for the 1st year, the seedlings would be grown on in people's gardens. Obviously strict biosecurity would have to be adhered to so that the trees are in tune with local conditions and to stop the spread of any possible diseases.

If the allotment site is used for this in the future, then a good rabbit/deer proof fence would need to be installed along with an irrigation system.

It was asked whether there were any areas of public land to grow the young trees, perhaps around the football pitch. It was said that most of the land, especially around Goodeaves is owned by Aster so we could communicate with them if necessary.

They could also be used to replace after Ash fells e.g. in Harridge or Edford Woods.

If anybody is interested in helping, please contact Teresa or Veryan for more information.

Alan sadly mentioned that the old Elm opposite the bus-stop at the top of the village did not survive the summer.

Melanie handed out a slip for the next meeting giving possible future projects and whether people are interested in either attending or leading. This is to be looked at during the next meeting. This information can lead to sub groups being formed.

It was asked if it could be printed in the next parish magazine.

Bank Account

Alli will investigate into which ethical bank/building society account will be best for the group. We are an unincorporated association and will have three signatories, Allison, Libby and Dan. Check for hidden costs, whether we can have a card and if companies are happy to deposit into it. Alli will report her findings at the next meeting.

6. AOB

Tony spoke about transportation and the 184 and 424/414. This service runs through out the week but also on a Saturday and passes through many of the small villages near us. Is there a reason why Coleford seems to be excluded from the route? Would our new MP be interested in increasing the bus service to the largest village in the Mendips?

There is FAVBUG (Frome and villages bus user group) on Facebook which may be useful for information.

As the service is poor is car sharing the way forward? There is a formalised lift service to the hospitals and the website <https://liftshare.com/uk> is available. Facebook can also be utilised for a more informal situation. This is also something that Holcombe and Mells experience, should there be a shared approach?

Tony has very kindly created a logo for us incorporating the Hucky Duck. Dan will look to update and modify it for us.

Andy reminded us that there is a conservation group event to plant out the plugs and sow seeds on Sunday 15th October at 10am at the Butterfly Bank.

Alan asked whether in light of Gladman being given the go ahead for housing near Lypeate, should we be looking at the general water quality of our stream and the burden of the extra houses on our sewer system? With an investigation into discharging by Wessex Water and and citizen science projects where we can test the water quality ourselves. Gary will look into this.

Actions

1	Researching bank accounts	Alli
2	Looking at information/investigating the water quality of our local waterways	Gary
3	Update/modify the logo	Dan

7.The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 14th November 2023, starting at 19.00 at the Hub.