

Minutes of the meeting of Coleford Climate Action (CCA) held on Tuesday 12 September 2023.

Present: Andy Conn, Veryan Conn, Kitty Fish, Melanie Moulding, Alan Townsend, Wendy Parslow, Teresa Hopkins, Dan Hopkins, Val George, Tony Mayell, Lesley Mayell, Yvonne Hawkins, Libby Meyrick

Apologies: Allison Still, Amber Gray, Barbara Gonzalez

1. All present quickly introduced themselves, for the purpose of the minutes.
2. Melanie explained that a number of people had put themselves forward for various roles on the Steering Group:
 - Libby has volunteered to be Secretary – proposed by Tony, seconded by Andy, agreed.
 - Allison has volunteered to be Treasurer – proposed by Andy, seconded by Teresa, agreed.
 - Dan has volunteered to be Comms – proposed by Val, seconded by Libby, agreed.
 - Melanie has volunteered to be Chair, proposed by Libby, seconded by Andy, agreed.

As Amber is a younger member of the group and has volunteered to join the Steering Group and link into the school and other youth groups, it was suggested that she be made a 'young person coordinator'. Proposed by Libby, seconded by Teresa, agreed.

There were no other suggestions for set roles within the Steering Group, if anyone thinks of any roles, or would like to join the Steering Group, please let Libby know.

3. The Coleford Parish Council Green Charter and Climate Adaption Toolkit had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Parish Council had accepted a version of the Charter which had removed reference to ban Glyphosate herbicides – however, the CCA could use the Parish Council Charter as a reference document and can continue to work to the full Charter as an eventual target. Those present agreed.
4. A list of potential projects and initiatives as suggested by the members of the whole group had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that many of the ideas will need funding and all will need someone to take a lead – and there will be others to add, from other documents and members as they join. Where do we start? The following suggestions were made:
 - Tree planting – is there space in Coleford for a community orchard? Andy explained that the conservation group has planted some trees at the playing field and are planning some tree planting at the new allotment site. They are also looking to do a visit to Westbury-sub-Mendip where they have a community tree nursery, growing local trees for their village, with surplus going to Somerset Wildlife Trust for use in their reserves. This sort of initiative could be managed in Coleford, with volunteers growing a few trees on each and maybe using some of the land at Vobster for the trees as they mature. It was noted that tree planting at the Frome end of the village would be a good idea, in collaboration with Aster who own most of the green spaces there.
 - An information resource to help local people with smaller projects such as buying and installing water butts or bird or bat boxes, how to grow wildflowers and shade

homes with vegetation was suggested – a repository of instructions and where to find out more information.

- Planting up local spaces with native wildflowers which are good for nature, look beautiful and low maintenance – for example, in the beds opposite the GP surgery.
- Litter picking – get the school and wider community involved
- A ‘green parenting’ group – possibly on WhatsApp or similar, looking at sharing items/clothes/ideas, social networking and support. This could link into the nursery and the toddler groups and the baby bank.
- Use the Parish Magazine to get the word out about the CCA and some initiatives that are running – get people involved and empowered to make changes themselves.
- The action list is to be updated with other ideas and divided into long term and short term actions and circulated to the wider group for members to volunteer to lead on projects as appropriate. Action: Libby
- Dan has set up a Facebook group for the group members, he will also set up a page for the wider community, once the group has some actions that can be shared. Action: Dan

With regards to longer term actions, Andy commented that it is difficult to pick things that a community can have an impact on – and suggested that the big questions are transport and heating – both of which are huge topics for everyone, whether someone is engaged with the climate crisis or not. The CCA could therefore choose these two as themes to focus on with actions such as applying for grants for insulation, holding events for the community, contacting organisations who can provide information on funding and practical advice.

This moved the discussion onto the subject of funding and grants – as the CCA will be able to achieve little without some funds for relatively small costs such as hosting a website or paying for materials for bat boxes, to bigger grants. Alan suggested that he could contact the CSC for some ideas of funds available – Action: Alan - and Libby said that the recent Community Plan included advice on where to apply for funding on all topics, including environmental issues. She will ask the Parish Clerk for details – Action: Libby. It was suggested that Wedmore and Bruton could be contacted to see where they got their bigger funding pots from.

It was noted that in order to get funding, the CCA will need a constitution, a bank account and various back up documents such as health and safety statements, safeguarding statements, risk assessment documents and so on. Action: Steering Group

5. Actions as per table below.

Minute no	Action	Who responsible
4	Update action plan and circulate to group	Libby
4	Members to volunteer to lead on actions in plan	All
4	Facebook page for wider community to be set up when actions ready to be shared	Dan
4	Contact CSC regarding possible funding streams	Alan
4	Contact Parish Clerk regarding possible funding streams	Libby
4	Set up constitution and other supporting paperwork to formalise CCA and apply for bank account	Steering Group

It was noted that the CCA will have a presence at the Community Clubs day at the British Legion on Saturday 16th September.

6. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed, depending on when members of the Steering Group are available.

Post-meeting note – the next meeting will be on Tuesday 3 October, starting at 19.00, at The Hub.