



OXENHOPE VILLAGE COUNCIL

PO Box 883
Halifax
HX1 9TZ

Janet Foster
Clerk to the Village Council
07972 717058

clerk@oxenhopevillagecouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Attendees:

Cllr Ken Eastwood
3 residents

Janet Foster - Clerk

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Eastwood started by welcoming everyone to the meeting and introducing everyone.

2. Oxenhope Village Council and Climate Change

Cllr Eastwood said the Village Council have discussed climate change and the approach the Council should take. While there had been discussion about declaring a climate emergency, this was seen by some as a political issue and the Council had decided against it. However Councillors are very committed to tackling this issue of climate change.

He said the aim of this meeting was to have an informal, exploratory discussion and to come up with ideas and thoughts for a way forward.

3. Group Discussion

Cllr Eastwood thanked the resident for producing a really useful discussion document and asked them to talk about it.

They started by saying they had lived in the village for about 5 years. They have several grandchildren and were concerned about climate change and the effect it will have on their grandchildren.

They wanted to do something but knew it might be difficult to get people on board so wanted to prompt a discussion and also look at starting with easier things to get people involved.

They felt one easier thing might be to concentrate on home energy, especially given the likely steep rise in energy costs. However concerns were raised about the likely cost and difficulty of insulation, particularly with some of the older properties in the village.

They also suggested that a repair shop (possibly a virtual one to start with) and working towards going plastic free would be good starting points.

They would like the Village Council to agree to work towards net zero. They gave an example of another village, Overton, who are working towards net zero and have a website (sustainableorverton.org.uk). A website is a good starting point and a way of getting people on board.

They suggested that small groups could be set up, for example with the repair shop. This would start to get people involved. Some of the bigger ideas would require more work but these would be longer term projects.

Cllr Eastwood stated he really liked the approach of starting small and building from there. He said that branding is important and care needs to be taken not to put people off. He offered to set up a website for free and could then put out a call for interested people to sign up, either to a WhatsApp Group or a Facebook page. He said there was a real need for more people to be involved.

Another resident thought the idea of a repair shop was a great idea. They pointed to the lack of businesses in Oxenhope and were keen to see this as an opportunity to attract and support new businesses into the village.

The third resident agreed and talked about Surfers against Sewage and their work on plastic free communities.

Cllr Eastwood said it was really important to get young people on board and agreed that the green agenda did offer a real business growth opportunity. He emphasised the importance of focusing on small local issues rather than national issues, which would be hard to influence.

The first resident agreed it can be difficult but if a group is started and gets together with other like minded groups to lobby MPs and Parliament, then you can have an effect. The starting point is to get credibility as a village group.

4. Next Steps

Cllr Eastwood suggested that the next steps could be to organise a brand, logo and website followed by a call to action across the village.

The first resident suggested it might be easier to continue the discussion via a closed Facebook group, which could be used to exchange ideas, starting with the branding and logo. Once the logo and brand identity has been agreed it can be used with every project, including the repair shop and the plastic free project.

Cllr Eastwood said once that is underway and agreed then a call to action and a public meeting can be arranged to move the project forward. A target date of early March was agreed.

Cllr Eastwood closed the meeting by thanking the resident for producing the discussion document and everyone for attending.