



Minutes

Name of Meeting		Environment and Sustainability Forum – COP26 outcomes
Date and Time		23 rd November 2021, 17:00-18:30
Venue		Microsoft Teams
Attendees	Name	Role/Organisation
	Natasha Dix	Strategic Manager Contracts Waste Env
	Jonathan Bacon	Cabinet Member
	Colin Rowland	Director of Neighbourhoods
	Holly Jones	Climate Change Project Officer
	Tom Murphy	
	Rebecca Hardie	Parish Councillor for Nettlestone and Seaview
	Robert Packham	
	Claire Critchison	
	Lisa Beaney	Footprint Trust
	Roger Bartrum	
	Lester Slade	
	Venetia Verey	
	Joanne Sedgmond	Communications and Campaigns Officer
	Dina Jung	
	David Adams	
	John Hobart	Parish Cllr, Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council
	Luke Spandley	
	Vix Lowthion	
	Cindy Betley	
	Colin Palmer	Wight Community Energy
	Dave Wallis	Island Roads
	Emily Gordon	Environment Agency
	Sarah Innes	
	David Newton	Strategic Manager Transport and Regen
	Jamie Marsh	Wildlife Trust
	Chris Quirk	Councillor
	Vincent Wedlock-Ward	Future Isle of Wight
	Nora Aridi	
	Richard And Gilly Steele	
John Medland		
Chris Jarman		
Ian Stephens	Deputy Leader	
Sharon Lake		
Alison Day-Logan		
Nora Clinton		
17:00	ND	Welcome and housekeeping Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Stewart • Phil Jordan MS Teams and housekeeping

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No amendments to last month's minutes
17:05	HJ	What is COP?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides attached
17:15	HJ	COP26
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides attached
		Q&A
	SI	Would it be possible to use these slides in another group meeting?
	HJ	Yes – slides will be sent out with minutes as a PDF. HJ to send SI a PowerPoint version of the slides that can be adapted for use in meetings
	R&G	The forestry agreement says that it won't be implemented for another 9 years. Will there/should there be sanctions in place for countries that don't meet targets?
	HJ	A key issue with COP is that agreements are voluntary, however it's something of a vicious circle as countries are more likely to participate in non-sanctioned, voluntary agreements but this in turn makes them difficult to enforce. I think if we can see one or two really major economies taking the leap and leading the way others are likely to follow – but this depends on any nations' leadership having the guts to make that move.
	JH	Will this 1.5 target be strong enough to prevent the impacts of methane being released from permafrost melt?
	HJ	This is something of a difficult one because it's causing a feedback loop – warming releases methane, which causes more methane to be released, which causes more warming, which releases more methane. Targets have been developed to prevent the worst impacts of climate change but at this stage it may be too early to say. We can't necessarily answer this right now, but we can monitor the research, which is continually developing.
	VL	Methane hydrates in oceans are just as much of a concern. This is a question that even geologists need more info on
	SI	I've read that the axis tilt of the Earth is worsening, which may have a more drastic effect on the environment and ecosystems than climate change – is this likely to be worse than emissions? Also, we are overdue to experience a polar flip – will this cause issues?
	HJ	I haven't heard about the axis tilt but will look into it. Unsure about the impacts of the polar flip although I am aware it's expected.
VL	On the Isle of Wight, we can feel disempowered to act among all these big global agreements as we're such a small region. What can we do to focus on adapting and working together as a community, e.g. adapting to sea level rise which will be an issue locally?	
ND	We have an existing shoreline management plan which is being updated at the minute. This is based on modelling around local systems to ensure we are working to the correct predictions for the Island. We need to ensure further resilience for the shoreline, but also for the Island as a whole.	
17:35		Breakout groups
18:05		Feedback from groups
		Group 1
	CQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While there is now a large commitment to the green cause, how do we get everyone involved? We've heard that the Island would be a good test area for new low carbon technology but there is still resistance, e.g. with PTEC
	DJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're an experimental island and need to develop new ideas We need to remove investment in fossil fuels e.g. via pensions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We've suggested the idea of 'carbon ration books' so people have a lifetime allowance We need to take advantage of easy technology e.g. solar panels Also there is a real need to green buses and reduce tourism by car locally
JB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full council meeting last week agreed to divest pensions from high-carbon funds – this has got somewhat lost among other announcements, but a press release will be issued next week
HJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tool has been launched via Future Isle of Wight to assess rooftop solar potential of domestic properties: Discover your solar potential - Independent Instant Accurate (solarsim.co.uk)
	Group 2
CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A central government unit is needed to oversee outcomes and report progress We need to see more evidence of outcomes but overall have much better awareness now Education needs to be the priority as the next step to avoid a legacy of disaster for the next generation We need different options in general, e.g. ways to travel, ways to change daily lifestyles The Mission Zero Hub will go a long way towards coordinating all local activity
	Group 3
LFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our group was all completely new to the Forum this month so not sure about the Mission Zero Hub We discussed the need for local generation, e.g. through solar farms, and the interconnector Need better/more affordable buses, especially in rural areas Need to improve use of existing facilities Also should focus on trees to reduce impacts such as flooding and heat island effects, especially in urban areas Land use in general can improve – natural solutions are vital We were also wondering if public ownership of utility companies would help?
HJ	Will send out link to previous meeting minutes when these minutes are published
	Group 4
DN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport: sustainable transport will be essential. How many miles does an EV need to travel to pay off its carbon overhead and is this feasible on the Island? What role will hydrogen take? Need education around local activities and knowledge sharing. Could use tangible local examples to prove effectiveness e.g. restorative and regenerative agriculture projects taking place at the minute To what extent can the Island become self-sufficiency? Land use change: need to aim to influence the Island Planning Strategy to build local communities buying local goods and services; however this may mean there is a need for more housing/infrastructure
	Group 5
CR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP26 was a disappointment on the global scale as too many oil lobbyists were present. On the upside this seems to say that the oil industry knows

		<p>its days are numbered as big oil companies are now diversifying – have we reached peak oil?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidies not discussed but we do need incentives for low carbon tech as they are currently not affordable for a lot of people (e.g. EVs cost 3x an ICE vehicle) • Need to balance connectivity with sustainability – this is particularly challenging in rural areas
	RB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to engage with the community more – could we look at climate emergency centres? Grants may be available
	HJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Mission Zero Hub we have said we will take a combined online/in-person approach, aiming to cover the whole Island with in person events to avoid only focusing on large towns. However this is in early stages of planning so we cannot yet confirm how this will look. Please could you send me further information about climate emergency centres/funding?
		Group 6
	JB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a key need for education – this is a recurring theme • This will help achieve public buy-in • Overall it's better to do something than nothing • In terms of incentives perhaps we could use local planning rules to strengthen this? Although generally we will probably need national policy to support incentives • Should aim for supermarkets to be involved and support local produce rather than shipping in cheaper goods from elsewhere • Also need to recognise with the Mission Zero Hub: the council intends to influence, not own – but to act as a leader and support local activity
	HJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point about doing something rather than nothing reminds me of a quote where someone said it's better to have everyone doing things imperfectly instead of a handful of people doing things perfectly – everyone should try and do what is achievable for them
18:30		Pre-submitted questions
		<p>I am wondering if Sustainability could instigate a project and analysis of how the rubbish is arising, i.e. what is in the litter bins, and what is it that is driving the need to dispose of litter in a rural location?</p> <p>And, then having surveyed the litter bins, could the Council take some actions that might help reduce the necessity to provide and empty litter bins in rural locations?</p>
	HJ	<p>I am still waiting on answers to some parts of this question so will respond in writing in full ASAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do have data around this for household waste but not for litter • Carrying out a study like this would be cost dependent • Various litter campaigns have been run in the past, some internally and some with Keep Britain Tidy
18:35		AOB
		None raised
Date of next Environment & Sustainability Forum: 24th February 2022		
Topic: TBC		