

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.00pm on Monday 19th March 2012

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr C Blades
Councillors, C. Bussey, B. Garner, J. Geldart (to 7.45), G. Hill, P. McNeill, N. Pennycott, D. Shopland,
Town Clerk - Ms P Heath

Guests – Mrs Libby Lawes and Transition Clevedon representatives

12/188 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors C. Hall (other commitment), L. Little (other commitment), J Middleton (other commitment) J. Norton-Sealey (family commitments), A. Shopland (other commitment)

RESOLVED: That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

12/189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda

The Chairman explained the proceeding for the evening for the benefit of the guests. The Council will formally suspend standing orders and invite the guests to make their presentations after which Councillors may comment or question the guests. Once the Council has formally reinstated standing orders the guest will not be eligible to speak.

*Proposed by Cllr Blades, seconded by Cllr Hall and **RESOLVED** That Standing Orders are suspended to enable the names guests to address the Council.*

Mrs Libby Lawes

Made a presentation to the Council on the global problems being created by man and the theories relating to power Corporate industries have over inventions which could reduce man's consumption of natural resources. The Council were asked to look at turning all public open spaces over to community gardens and also to make use of highway verges to grow our food and make Clevedon self-sufficient.

Ms Lawes expressed concern about the air quality globally and in particular pollutants being emitted by local power stations. The Council were asked to place an ioniser on Dial Hill to reduce the amount of ions in the air, this would cover a 45 mile diameter area.

Transition Clevedon

Made a presentation on the work they had been undertaking locally to improve Clevedon's self-sufficiency although explaining that the Town could not nor should not become completely self-sufficient. Trade with other communities had always been a way of life, and provided the ability for goods, trades, and skills to be shared.

They gave a brief history of why Transition had been set up and their future plans. They wished to work with the Council and other groups to create an "Energy descent action plan" which would include initiatives to produce free food from underused spaces such as the 3 flower beds at Seavale Road which in conjunction with NSC

and local residents would be planted with vegetables and flower mix. Also highlight and promote local food produces so reducing carbon miles.

- In responses to questions Ms Lawes explained that she had no technical knowledge as to how the Ioniser worked nor the various inventions that had been suppressed by the large companies as they were detrimental to their business but showed members the large files of information they were welcome to read.
- It was explained that all the Power stations had sophisticated measuring and filtering systems to ensure no additional pollutants were added to atmosphere.
- Although in principal the idea of using open spaces for food was good several factors had to be taken into consideration such as carbon pollution from car exhausts, safety of those planting and harvesting the crops, and effect on other users of the areas. Changes would be done slowly with a mixture of species of fruit and nut trees plus vegetables and soft fruits.
- The aim of the future is to provide ability for residents to help themselves reduce carbon miles with growing their own food and to keep alive the traditions and skills needed. Society is and will continue to change as increased cost and reduction in resources force a revaluation; the aim is to reduce the impact for Clevedon.
- A footpath and cycle map is being produced of Clevedon to encourage resident to walk or cycle instead of using the car.

In summing up it was agreed

- Investigate turning amenity land into growing use
- Publicise the sustainability issues and any established facts relating to sustainability.
- To establish what and who in North Somerset Council and adjacent area deal with sustainability and environment.
- Establish what checks and safeguards are in place in respect of power stations
- Investigate setting up a Credit Union
- Investigate the installation of Ioniser
- To work with Transition Clevedon to produce "Energy descent action plan"

*Proposed by Cllr Blades, seconded by Cllr Garner and **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.*

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to set up a subcommittee to liaise with Transition Clevedon, Ms Lawes and any other similar group to form an action plan and undertake such actions as agreed by Council to improve Clevedon environment and biodiversity and reduce Clevedon Carbon miles and footprint; the subcommittee to be agreed at 18th April Council meeting.