

Modbury Parish Council

Sustainability Committee

Minutes of meeting: February 16th 2023

Attending: Ann Turner (AT), Barbara Price (BP), Dave Trigger (DT), Helen Nathanson (HN)

Agenda:

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

Minutes agreed as an accurate record.

Air Quality: At the last meeting it had been agreed to put on hold a request to DCC for testing of air quality in Church Street and Broad Street. At that time it was anticipated that SWW would be undertaking work which would close parts of the road for several months. That work has been put back to 2023, therefore it was agreed to put in a request for air quality monitoring this year. **Action:** AT to ask Parish Clerk to request this.

Mapping: AT has attended a course run by Parish on Line and has discussed with Cllr Phil Smith (PS) how we might use this for mapping local resources and activities. **Action:** To hold in mind for future use and to liaise with PS as necessary.

Local resources and need: Requests for information about how the Parish Council might best target support to those in need yielded no responses. Poor uptake on the Energy Advice session. **Action:** To reconsider in Community Engagement Committee, BP and AT.

2. River Erme Water Quality

Agreed that the meeting with the other riparian parish councils had been successful. Minutes and additional information has been circulated to all attendees. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20th, 7pm at the QE11 Pavilion.

It was agreed that the priority was to clarify Terms of Reference and an Action Plan and to invite key stakeholders. All attendees at the previous meeting have been asked to nominate possible invitees although it was felt by this meeting that the group would need to guard against becoming too big a committee as this might hinder progress with the danger that the committee could become a talking shop. Nominated so far: Environment Agency, West Country Rivers Trust, John Mildmay White (Flete Estate) Sarah Curtin (Devon and Severn Inshore and Conservation Authority), representative from PL21 (Ivybridge). Other possible invitees for a further meeting, Devon Wildlife Trust, Donncha, environmental scientist who has conducted research on SWW and the River Erme. **Action:** AT to contact the above and invite to the next meeting. To contact Cllr Harry Baumer from Holbeton who had sent the information from Donncha to find out more about his background and to suggest it may be more appropriate to invite him to give a talk on another occasion.

Next step: To organise an open event in early June to engage the community and recruit volunteers. **Action:** To discuss at forthcoming meetings.

HN attended the recent Rivers Trust meeting and gave brief feedback. News of creation of the River Erme Group was greeted positively. **Action:** HN to circulate minutes from meeting.

Sustainable South Hams are organising a Rivers Assembly on March 18th. **Action:** AT and HN to attend.

3. HN raised the issue of ensuring that sustainability remains a key issue for the parish council bearing in mind that there are elections in May when the makeup of the council may change. The Parish Council has signed up to the Climate Emergency and that should stand regardless of changes in council. It was, however, agreed to consider further how this work should be safeguarded. **Action:** On agenda for future meetings.

4. Funding opportunities for low carbon/decarbonisation activities. AT attended a virtual presentation by Chris Shears (SHDC). Funding is from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This runs from January 2023 to April 2025.

Funding is divided into the following sectors: Active travel Agricultural technology and regeneration, Marine economy. AT gave details of the presentation and the group discussed possible options for bids. It was agreed to have a further discussion once the slides from the presentation had been circulated. **Action:** AT to request presentation. All agreed a meeting to discuss on Monday, February 27th at 2pm. Venue the Little Kitchen if available, otherwise the Parish Office. AT to confirm venue.

Date and time of next meeting. Monday, February 27th, 2pm. Venue TBC.