

20 September 2023

To Councillors - Cllr Danny Bonnett (Chair), Cllr Kath Greenman, Cllr Jayne Stansfield, Cllr Helen Harrison, Cllr Chris Bloor, Cllr Chris Woodhouse and all non-councillor Committee members

Please take notice that a meeting of the **Climate and Nature Committee** of Thornbury Town Council will be held in the **Council Chamber of the Town Hall** on **Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 7.30pm**.

All above named Councillors are hereby **summoned**, and non-councillors invited, to attend the above meeting for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out hereunder.



Yan Cheung, Climate and Nature Officer

*Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and the need to conserve biodiversity.*

**Public participation:** Please note that this meeting is open to the public. Please take note of the guidance notes for public participation [provided](#).

## AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interests
3. To receive any representations from the public
4. To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2023
5. To consider supporting Plastic Free Thornbury by considering the following resolutions (paper attached)
  - Thornbury Town Council will lead by example and phase out single use plastics
  - Thornbury Town council will support all plastic free initiatives in this area
6. To agree the establishment of a Community Energy Project Feasibility Working Group and approve Terms of Reference (paper attached)
7. To consider a proposal from Cllr Danny Bonnet to request from South Gloucestershire Council an on-street EV charging pilot scheme in Thornbury (paper attached)
8. To consider recommending the transition of Town Council vehicles to electric to Finance & General Purpose Committee/Full Council (paper to follow from Town Clerk)
9. To agree a plan for phasing out of all pesticide and herbicide use by Thornbury Town Council with a view to make a recommendation to the Open Spaces Committee (paper attached)
10. Date of the next meeting: 23 November 2023 at 7.30pm

**Agenda item 5 To consider supporting for Plastic Free Thornbury**

**From: xxx**

**Sent: 18 August 2023 15:54**

**To: Ming Yan Cheung**

**Subject: [External] Plastic Free Thornbury - council resolution**

I hope you are well and that you are the correct person to send this email to.

Dear Yan

I have recently restarted Plastic Free Thornbury after it stopped in 2020/21.

I am keen to know if Thornbury Town council would consider passing the following resolutions

Resolution to support Plastic Free Thornbury

The motion states that Thornbury Town Council will lead by example and phase out single use plastic.

The motion states that Thornbury Town council will support all plastic free initiatives in this area.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Emma Young

Plastic free thornbury

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE – COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT FEASIBILITY WORKING GROUP**

These terms of reference should be read in conjunction with Thornbury Town Council Standing Orders.

### **1. NAME**

- 1.1 This Working Group shall be called, “Community Energy Project Feasibility Working Group” (the Group).

### **2. COMPOSITION**

- 2.1 The Group is open to any Councillor or non-Councillor member of the Climate and Nature Committee. There is no limit on membership numbers.

### **3. CHAIRING/GROUP LEAD**

- 3.1 The position of ‘Group Lead’ will be chosen by the Group. The position shall be reviewed annually.
- 3.2 The Group Lead shall be responsible for co-ordinating the Group including the creation of any agendas (if these are desired).

### **4. QUORUM**

- 4.1 There is no quorum for meetings as the Group is not a delegated (decision making) committee.

### **5. CONDUCT OF THE MEETINGS**

- 5.1 As an undelegated Working Group, the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1 (1)), The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, para 41(1) shall not apply. Any meetings held shall not be open to members of the Public or Press.
- 5.2 In accordance with paragraph 5.1, no formal agenda, nor minutes, are required of the meeting.
- 5.3 In consideration of paragraph 5.1, the Group is free to operate as it feels appropriate, which may include meeting face-to-face, meeting virtually, collaboration on email, etc.
- 5.4 Any information shared that is commercially sensitive should be kept within the membership of the Group.
- 5.5 In carrying out the objectives above, the Group should give due regard to the Town Council’s areas of operation, Strategy, Aims & Objectives and Annual Plan.

### **6. AREA OF OPERATIONS**

The Group is set up with the following objectives:

- 6.1 To investigate the feasibility of the Town Council being involved in a Community Energy Project, to include:
- Research into whether other Town or Parish Councils have been involved in similar projects

- Research into the structure arrangements for any recommended projects, e.g. whether these could be directly managed by the Town Council or through a CIC (Community Interest Company)
- Research into the issues around the legality and advisability of being involved in such a project including – ownership, investment, benefitting other organisations, conflicting with statutory duties of other public bodies, accounting and transparency, and any other relevant issues
- Research into resourcing and financing implications and reporting on the resource implications to the Town Council
- Considerations of risks and liabilities

6.2 To work closely with officers to obtain legal and “best practice” advice on all items outlined in paragraph 6.1, and to obtain a thorough understanding of potential difficulties.

6.3 To make recommendations to the Climate and Nature Committee in relation to the feasibility of the Town Council being involved in a Community Energy Project with a view to the Climate and Nature Committee in turn making any recommendations to Full Council.

## **7. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

7.1 The Group has no delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council or the Climate and Nature Committee (or any Committee).

7.2 To make recommendations and provide advice to the Climate and Nature Committee on the feasibility of a Community Energy Project.

## **8. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

8.1 To satisfy itself that health and safety and governance procedures are being followed in relation to the Group’s remit.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT**

9.1 To give due consideration to environmental, conservation and climate change matters in carrying out the functions of the Group and in reaching all decisions.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

10.1 To consider equality and diversity (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and disability), tackling disadvantage, reducing social exclusion, and supporting society’s most vulnerable groups, in carrying out the functions of this Group.

## **11. FURTHER INFORMATION**

11.1 The Group shall report to the Climate and Nature Committee.

11.2 The Group shall undertake reviews of its Terms of Reference as and when appropriate and may make recommendations to the Climate and Nature Committee regarding its own Terms of Reference.

11.3 The Climate and Nature Committee, and/or Full Council, may not always be able to act on all advice offered and there is no formal obligation to do so.

### On-street charging of Electric Vehicles (EVs)

In the foreseeable future, most of the vehicles we use in society will be electric. If you use an electric vehicle, or wish to, but do not have private off-street parking, you will presently need to use a public charger, or somehow get an extension cable from your home to your car, which has several issues. A good summary is provided here:

<https://www.motoclarity.co.uk/news/how-do-people-with-no-driveway-charge-an-electric-car>

To support charging of vehicles on public roads, there are various options for kerbside charging:

- charging in bollards (top left);
- charging in lampposts (top right, integrated; below left, retro-fit);
- chargers embedded into the pathway (below right);
- other.



Thornbury now has some public charge points, which are a necessary step along the way, as they are available to EV owners with no home charging option, or to those visiting the town, or to those who choose to charge whilst in town. These are situated in St Mary Street car park and Rock Street car park. Public charge points, however, may be expensive, occupied, inconvenient/far away.

In order to provide confidence to those motorists with no home charging option, that they will be able to charge an EV, economically, near to their homes, allowing them to decide when they would like to switch to an EV, it is necessary to have in plain sight, some examples of how to do this. It is to

be expected that some pilot schemes will be necessary, ahead of large scale uptake, as this allows potential EV drivers to understand fully how they would live with an EV. It should be noted that the air quality in the town, and the levels of road traffic noise, will decrease if people, like-for-like, own/drive an EV compared to an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle. It is also important to note that EV motoring is typically considerably cheaper than ICE motoring, so it is to the benefit of residents to have the freedom to choose an EV, if they wish.

This paper proposes that Thornbury Town Council reaches out to South Gloucestershire Council, to seek an on-street charging pilot scheme within the town. In this context, pilot is expected to be the provision of a set of charging points in one street, for example, or one area of an estate. For maximum benefit, the location would be as central as possible, allowing residents and non-residents to see it.

Written by Cllr Danny Bonnett  
14th September 2023

Agenda item 9) To agree plan for phasing out of all pesticide and herbicide used by Thornbury Town Council with a view to make a recommendation to the Open Spaces Committee

Name of Building/land		Use of other chemicals	Brand	Freq (approx.)	Applying method	Reasons	Alternatives
Mundy Playing Fields	Tennis court	Y	Sapphire	Every 2 months	spray	weeding	Acetic acid / Steel brushing
	Splashpad	Y	Wet&Forget	Every 6 months	spray	Algea	Need further investigation (Health and safety concerns)