

**CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP (CEEWG) meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm held in the Community Hall.**

**In attendance: Cllr Hood (Chair), C Couzens (CC), D Mullis (DM), Richard Clothier (RC) and Jane Durney (JD).**

**Officer present: None (notes taken by the chair)**

**Meeting started at: 7.30pm.**

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **26/01: Apologies for Absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

Apologies received from Nick Truman, Cllr Ewan Jones. Also Jane Durney for lateness.

#### **26/02: Notes of the previous meeting.**

To receive and approve the [notes from the last meeting](#) held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The notes were approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

#### **26/03: Land and Nature:**

a. Coombe Brook Catchment

i. Speaking to Landowners:

Noted that reactions from landowners are likely to depend on the individual so there can be no one correct script to use. Agreed who should approach each landowner. RC suggested that it would be helpful to have a clearer rationale for why we are doing this work which links back to this group's terms of reference, and which also includes what success might look like. *JH will update and re-circulate the prompt sheet to reflect this, also forward the ToR for this group and recent Dove article to RC.*

There are several fields where ownership is not known. RC offered to speak to a colleague who has access to the Land Registry. *JH to send map to RC, RC to return details.*

Discussed some of the benefits that might be available to landowners. *CC to talk to Natural England about Higher Tier Stewardship*

*agreements, RC to find out details from David Hiscox (Natural Capital) re availability of phosphate and Biodiversity Net Gain credits.*

Agreed we should have a meeting of interested landowners at the point where we have something useful to feed back to them.

- ii. Bio-acoustic survey:  
RC reported that this needed to be done in the breeding season, and preferably by July. He confirmed that Wyke Farms would meet the cost. *JH to provide map of the catchment so that suitable locations can be identified by the consultants.*
- iii. Dormouse survey:  
CC reported that the equipment was available, and the work would need to be done by trained volunteers (very straightforward-just a few minutes' training, four or five needed) between April and October. [see Hedgerow section for discussion re volunteers].
- iv. Hedgerow survey:  
Will need to be done by volunteers using the Healthy Hedgerows app and best done whilst hedges are in leaf. Can start with public rights of way, so no need to wait for landowner consent. Considered how to recruit volunteers: decided on social media appeals plus specific requests for Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates via the schools. *DM to investigate the app and feed back what's needed, JH to draft a request for volunteers based on this information.*
- v. Riverfly monitoring:  
BrueCREW have the kit and the know-how and are already monitoring at Coombe Farm. Two further locations suggested eg Whaddon and where the tributary from Greenscombe joins the main brook. *EJ to progress once we have consent.*
- vi. Brook Survey:  
Should cover at least degree of shading, crossings/barriers, water quality, nature of tree cover. NT had requested that he looks for evidence of otters, which we agreed was appropriate. *JH and CC to firm up the methodology to be used.*
- vii. Land use survey:  
Could be done online by a trained ecologist or potentially an ecology student prior to verification on the ground. Forest of Selwood have purchased a LandApp subscription with CC as the data enterer. Anyone with the free version can be given permission to access the FoS data. *CC to investigate what an ecologist might cost, JH to seek town council*

*consent to meet half the subscription cost of LandApp for the duration of this project.*

viii. Target timescales:

Agreed that we should look to see what's changed over a three-year period. It would be good but challenging to get the initial surveys done this summer.

b. Wilder gardens/allotments and other activities in the town

Wilder Bruton talk at St Marys was well received and very popular.

22 volunteers attended the most recent Hoedown at Durslade when a bog garden was installed.

Somerset Wildlife Trust are considering making the Durslade Community Garden an 'ambassador' for other sites round the county.

Wilder Open Gardens event is being planned for later in the year.

## **26/04: Zero carbon energy:**

a. Talks:

First talk on Solar PV went well with over 20 attendees and lots of questions.

Bath Preservation Trust have agreed in principle to give a talk on improving the performance of listed buildings, but it has not yet proved possible to agree a date. We agreed to change the proposed dates:

JH to repeat last year's air source heat pump talk in July. *JH to find suitable date, assistant town clerk to book the Community Hall.*

New target date for listed buildings talk in September. *JH to follow up.*

CC and JD to give a talk on adaptation of properties for extreme weather in November. *CC/JD to identify date, assistant town clerk to book downstairs At The Chapel.*

b. Possible talk on EVs:

A Batcombe resident approached JD at the PV talk and offered to give a talk on EVs. He had given a similar talk in Batcombe which was sparsely attended. Agreed that we should try arranging a short talk and Q&A session. *JH to take forward, with dates etc.*

## **26/05: Town Council Planning Policy:**

JH reported that the town council intention was that a full revision of the planning policy should take place as part of the town plan process. However given the time that the town plan is taking the council has agreed that a single document should be drawn up now collating what

the existing policy is, including the various sections of the One Planet Action Plan that relate to planning.

**26/06: One Planet Action Plan Review:**

General agreement that there is quite a lot to be done with the existing initiatives and that we should not embark on anything else at present.

**26/07: Member updates and AOB:**

CC and JD requested that the next meeting receives a report on the changes to the council's grounds maintenance contract resulting from CEEWG recommendations, and how these are being implemented (there is some concern that nothing has changed on the ground). *JH to progress.*

Members of the group are to visit Wyke Farms on 4 June. Thanks to RC for arranging.

It has come to light that The Newt are using glyphosate on their estate. The Newt have confirmed in writing that they use it in their car parks, and it is believed that it is used more widely as part of their agricultural practice. A petition has been started.

**26/08: Date of the next meeting:**

6 July 2026, 7.30 pm, Community Hall.

**END OF MEETING AT 20:40 pm**