BRUTON TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group (CEEWG)

A MEETING of the CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP (CEEWG) took place on Monday 9 November 2026 at 7.30pm held in the Community Hall.

Present: James Hood (JH), Charles Couzens (CC), Jane Durney (JD), Ewan Jones (EJ), Paul Webb (PW).

Members of the public: Hannah Phillips from Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT).
[Hannah is working with CEEWG on the launch of the "Act to Adapt Plan". Published Act to Adapt Plans can be viewed via the SWT website using this link.]

Meeting started: 7.30pm.
Cllr Hood welcomed Paul Webb as a new member and Hannah Phillips from Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) again.

MEETING NOTES:

26/27: Apologies for Absence and welcome to Paul Webb
Apologies received from Dee Mullis.

Paul Webb looks forward to becoming involved with CEEWG.
Paul's aims are habitat restoration alongside his business 'Black Bee Honey' and he looks forward to hopefully extending an impact to cover a wider area. He has been part of the steering group in Pitcombe working on nature restoration work and is looking forward to partnership in Bruton.

Paul's background is in graphic design, but he has been managing his honey business for 10 years, and is passionate about environmental work. He is also part of the parents climate action group at the local schools, and is hoping to encourage their partnership with local organisations.

26/28: Notes of the previous meeting.
To receive and approve the notes from the last meeting held on 14th September 2026.

Approved. Hannah Phillips from the Somerset Wildlife Trust was thanked for her presentation at the last meeting.

26/29: Act to Adapt (Hannah Phillips, SWT attending)

To note that Bruton Town Council have agreed with Somerset Wildlife Trust to support a Climate Action Plan, and to discuss any next steps, including:

a) Other parishes.

Pitcombe Parish Council have been approached and would like to work with Bruton Town Council on the plan, discussions are ongoing with a Trustee.

Shepton Montague Parish Council have also been approached and are keen to become involved, they have a meeting next week when it will be formally considered.

A response is awaited from Batcombe and from Brewham Parishes.

The project is designed to be community lead as much as possible, the working group's understanding of how it can work in the community will be key. Hannah has worked in other areas in Somerset where multiple parishes have worked together on Act To Adapt Plans with much success. Adaptation plans are living documents and are published on the SWT website.

The first step will be a launch event to encourage community engagement, with regular updates as the plan develops. It is possible for other areas to become involved later down the line during this process. The development is guided by the working group using their local knowledge for the greatest effect.

Agreed that the plan should proceed with those who have engaged so far, with developing engagement with other parishes along the way.

ATC to share contact details for Pitcombe and Shepton Montague PC with Hannah (and others if they come on board).

a) Dates and format of public consultations.

The first launch event is a workshop, usually on a weekday evening, bringing people together starting with a short presentation from Hannah with maps showing flood/heat risks. Then open-ended questions designed to encourage discussion on the impacts of climate change and will kickstart the conversations.

This would lead from the first event into further consultation events, raising awareness of what is happening already (e.g. One Planet Bruton Action plan).

A date for the initial workshop is suggested for Monday 1st February, and it would be ideal to have a further workshop in Hadspen Hall in the same week.

ATC will check availability at the Bruton Club as the preferred venue, but a screen will be needed, but will need to check if a screen is available for projecting. If the Bruton Club is not available, the Community Hall is available on Monday 1st February. ATC also to check whether it would be possible to hold an event in Hadspen Hall on an evening in the same week. Details of both events to be shared to The Dove.

The advert title was agreed as: Act to Adapt - Bruton and Beyond.

26/30: Materials and Products:

To note the forthcoming 'building adaptation 'talk and agree any publicity required.

Forthcoming talk on Adapting homes and gardens for the changing climate is on 19th November. CC and JD are finalizing plans tomorrow and will review the slides. Publicity has already begun, including the One Planet Bruton newsletter and posters in the community.

It is suggested that this ought to be a regular twice a year talk to focus on each seasonal change.

26/31: Land and Nature:

a) Combe Brook Catchment Action Plan: to receive updates on landowner consent and training, and to agree timescales for surveys.

Consent to surveys yet to be obtained from Creech Hill Farm and Greenscombe. Others have agreed.

JH and CC to discuss and finalise locations for bioacoustics monitoring and dormice monitoring. RC to be advised of the three bioacoustics locations.

JH to share potential locations for river fly monitoring with EJ.

It is suggested that it would be helpful to discuss 'Nature around Agriculture 'when RC is present; How best to engage farmers.

CC reported that tree surveying training has been arranged for Thursday 26th November, 10am – 12:30pm – to be promoted soon, with capacity for up to 8 people.

River fly partnership have recently added 10 volunteers and are looking for more. PW offered to assist with thePitt.

b) Use of glyphosate (and related herbicides) in agriculture locally: to hear and discuss how and why it is used.

There is a no Glyphosate/Pesticides and Herbicides policy in Bruton, however it is widely used on surrounding farmland. It would be helpful to improve understanding around the various practices/processes in these areas and gain insight into how/why it is used.

Suggested ways to facilitate this:

- A round table discussion with various farmers on their different farming approach.
- Encourage farmers to improve community knowledge and understanding of farming and its challenges.
- JH attended a showing of a film called Derek v Derek in North Barrow which appeared successful in engaging the local farmers, perhaps a showing here locally could be arranged. CC reported that Nature Bruton/Forest of Selwood are planning a screening for December in either Bruton or Batcombe, which could be followed by a panel.

Agreed that it would be helpful for RC to share his perspective at a future meeting.

26/32: Member updates and AOB

- JD;
  - One Planet Bruton Hoedown took place last weekend at Bishton Green, with bulbs donated by the Bishton Family including; daffodils, tulips, alpine strawberries. Planting took place in the established borders and also a ring around the base of the apple tree, with alpine strawberries marking the edges.
  - The next Hoedown will take place at Durslade allotment garden.
- CC;
  - A planned Meadow Management event is taking place on the morning of Saturday 21st November, at Bitham Wells meadow opposite Sexey's school.
- EJ;
  - A brief presentation is taking place tomorrow evening at the Town Committee meeting which will describe the change in location for King's School and Hummingbirds Learning Lab plans, which reopens the possibilities for meadow management at the Dovecote fields.
  - There is an event on the evening of 19th November; River Tone - systemic risk work through the eyes of various animals, taking place at Hauser & Wirth Somerset as part of the Art House Education Group.

- PW;
    - An emergency briefing is planned to take place at Bruton Primary, date to be confirmed. PW shared that every primary school has a Head of sustainability, which in Bruton is the Executive Head (Mrs R Bissett), and a Climate action plan, which PW hopes to see.
- JH;
    - Suggested that the large south facing roof of primary school would be ideal for solar panels if there were grant funding available, may be worth exploring. Bath & West Community Energy Co-op will be good to talk to about this.
    - Suggested that CEEWG could approach the school to offer support and show interest in their Climate Action Plan.

26/33: Date of the next meeting:

To discuss/agree the date and venue of the next meeting. Clerk recommends **Monday 25th January 2027**, which has been provisionally booked.

The date of the next meeting on Monday 25th January is approved by all.

END OF MEETING AT 8:40PM