

Basingstoke Transition Network
Meeting on Tuesday 2nd March 2021, 7.00 pm, by Zoom

Present: Martin Biermann (MB), Martin Heath (MH) Bob Clifford (BC), Miranda Chubb (MC), Colin Andrews (CA), Mary Andrews (MA, for part meeting only), Paul Beevers (PB), Malcolm MacInnes (MM), Paul Frankum (PF), Sheila Peacock (SP);

Apologies: Arun Mummalaneni (AM), Paul Harvey (PH), Sarah Warriss-Simmons (SW-S).

1. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted with minor change that Paul Frankum is “a member” (not chair) of Basingstoke Rotary Club (item 15).

2. Matters arising

Item 2 of January meeting – MB and MC have received transcripts of speeches made by cabinet portfolio holder Cllr. Eachus in answer to their questions at December Borough Council meeting;

Item 7 of January meeting – No reply from Paul Ciniglio;

Item 10 of January meeting – MM to try telephoning Bradley Morrison re. Transport policy.

Item 4 of February meeting – SP wrote to Lucy Martins as instructed but she said we had to get our own “Greening Pack”.

Item 11 – PB submitted a comment on the Bramley solar farm to the Council Planning Committee;

Item 13(a) MH and MC spoke at the Cabinet meeting on 9th Feb; Manydown Overview Cttee on 24th was cancelled and we should like to know why – MB will ask **Action – MB**.

3. AGM 2021

Agreed to hold AGM preferably face-to-face in autumn and possibly invite a senior officer from Borough Council or Urban & Civic.

4. Hustings for 6th May elections

(Note the absence of AM and PH who have a conflict of interest on this item)

Agreed:

(a) Set up hustings with Christ Church Chineham’s Zoom on a date to be agreed with them but preferably Wed 21st, Thur 22nd or Mon 26th April, starting at 7 pm;

(b) Invite one representative from each of the following parties: Conservative, Labour, LibDem, Basingstoke and Deane Independents, and if they are standing, Green, Brexit/Reform and other parties fielding three or more candidates; and up to two independents (making eight panellists) (this should be reviewed by MB, CA and SP after the nominations are published); invitations to be made as soon as possible after nominations are published - nominations deadline 8th April. While our aim is mostly at the Borough election we expect that panellists and audience will want to discuss County issues as well, and we will allow this;

(c) Invite questions beforehand; sort the questions and invite up to 15 questioners to attend on Zoom; other attenders can join on Facebook or YouTube and put questions in real time via the “Chat” functions. We should not need to extend Christ Church’s Zoom licence to cover this. The Zoom hosts will control the muting/unmuting of all participants;

(d) About four Zoom hosts will be needed, to manage the panellists and Zoom audience and capture and filter questions from the Facebook and YouTube audiences to convey to the meeting chair (need to be aware of time lag, possibly as much as 30 s, between Zoom and YouTube action);

(e) Publicity will include Twitter, Facebook, website, and invitations to the Gazette, Observer, Radio Berkshire, BBC South and local radio – MH and MC offered to do this, and BC will contact Anne Murrill at Helping Hands Radio; **Action – MH, MC.**

(f) The proposed programme is:

- Welcome (including by Christ Church vicar);
- Introductory remarks about BTN;
- Format of meeting;
- Panellists' opening remarks;
- Questions to panellists;
- Panellists' closing remarks;
- Thanks and close.

Comments on the agenda please to MB. **Action – ALL.**

5. Climate Emergency Strategy

The Council meeting at which the strategy is due to be approved has been brought forward to Thursday 18th March (to avoid the purdah period). The actual paper to be put before the Council has not yet been published. MH is supposed to be meeting Cllr. Eachus about it but a date has not yet been fixed. The version that went to Cabinet last month was inadequate and contained wrong values for Borough carbon emissions, hence it is not fit for purpose. A revised version is not on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting on 9th March, and we doubt that it will be revised sufficiently by 18th March to address our criticisms.

Agreed:

- MH to write on behalf of BTN to the opposition leaders encouraging them to table amendments at 18th March Council. Uncertain whether to write to Council leader (**Action – MH**). PF reminds us that two opposition councillors are on long-term sick leave, affecting the size of the majority. [Note added by SP – I make it that this means that there is an effective Conservative majority and there is no point in expecting opposition amendments to be successful: we need the co-operation of the council leader, so we should write to all the leaders.]
- Keep up letters to Gazette – MC agreed to write one; BC agreed to write one encouraging people to attend climate-related CafeSci online events (**Action – MC, BC**); [- Investigate possibility of running an e-petition – action – whom? We didn't agree wording and two weeks is a bit short?]
- SW Basingstoke is on agenda of 9th March Cabinet so PB will consider making a statement; advertising policy is also there so SP will pose the question that missed full Council on 25th Feb, about advertising policy excluding high-carbon items such as SUVs. **Action – SP, ?PB.** - these are opportunities to remind the Council of our agenda;
- **Action – ALL** – to consider questions to pose at 18th Mar Council meeting and submit them in time (presumably noon on Tues 16th March).

6. Manydown Standard

There was not time to go into this in detail so MB asked for suggested changes to the draft to be sent to him. The current version was the one amended most recently by MM. MB will try to put it on to Google Docs rather than circulate more versions by email. **Action – MB; ALL.**

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th April 2021, by Zoom.