Green Group Report to the Parish Council Meeting 9th November 2022

The September meeting which took place in the village hall focused on solar panels, with several members of the community sharing current/recent experiences of installation, including the costs and benefits, advantages and obstacles to a successful project.

The Harvest Supper held on the 7th October was a great success and well attended. This was a joint venture between a number of the village groups. It was particularly good to see some of the local farmers at the event and lots of local produce used for both food and decorations.

The group hosted a drop-in energy clinic in the village hall on Saturday 22nd October in conjunction with Herefordshire Green Network Building Sense Team, Severn Wye Energy Agency and Keep Herefordshire Warm. The event was attended by 40 visitors, and in addition there were 15 volunteers helping on and off during the course of the event. The event was a mixture of presentations and displays/advice stands with examples of varying energy saving advice ranging from simple draught-proofing to the installation of air-source heat pumps.

The event was advertised to the parish by a leaflet drop to all households, through posters and social media.
Q1 The Green Group would like to request Parish Council Support for this event to cover costs which were - £45village hall hire and £35.77 leaflet printing, invoices attached in support.

As a follow-up we will be running a thermal imaging camera project to help people identify where the energy leaks are in their homes. So far 8 people have signed up for this project. The group is very mindful of the cost of living crisis and the part that energy bills have to play in this. We are therefore also supportive of the combined village effort to host a community warm space in the village hall through the winter. To help with both of these projects we have applied for a grant from the National Grid Community Matters fund.

The Meer Pond project has now received both a Tree Survey and Woodland Management Plan for the site and we are seeking quotes for the initial tree work recommended for safety and improvement of light and access to the pond. We have recently applied for a lottery grant to fund this work.

The group is still hopeful that the Parish Council will instigate a working group to develop a Climate Action Plan for the Parish, and are prepared to work with the council to progress this.A google search of “Parish Council Climate Action Plan Examples” throws up several excellent case-studies which show the kind of work that follows a declaration of Climate Emergency.

We first approached the APC on the 6th October 2021 in this regard and wewould therefore respectfully ask for a clear timetable for the APC to commence the work in response to the declaration of Climate Emergency, bearing in mind the county aspiration to achieve Net

Zero by 2030, specificallyin reference to the minutes of the meeting from the 9th March 2022:

Item 7.3 To consider developing an action plan for the community to reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity within the parish, using the Great Collaboration tool and working with the Green group to do so – it was resolved to defer this item to a later date
Q2 When will this matter be raised again?
Item 7.4 To consider forming a 'green working party' and making an update from this group a standing item on agendas – it was resolved to defer the forming of a working party until a later date but to welcome the submission of an update by way of a written report before each meeting. It was resolved to set up an informal meeting to discuss issues further.
Q3 When will the informal meeting be called?