

AGM

18th July 2024 7-9pm



Venue: Harrogate Ladies College, Clarence Drive HG 2QG

Minutes of Meeting

1. Welcome

Jemima Parker. ZCH Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees:

Members of the Management Committee (Trustees):

Jemima Parker (JP), Ian Fraser (IF), Tim Lerner, Louise McManus (LM), Danny Wild (DW), Chris Arnott (CA)

ZCH Employees present: John Kerr (JK), Sunita Sundar (SS)

The meeting was quorate with >5% of the membership in attendance.

2. Apologies

None noted

3. Approval of the minutes from the previous AGM held on 29th June 2023

Accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Tim Lerner and seconded by Nick Anderson

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None identified.

5. Trustees' Report

JP presented the following report:

I hope you have had an opportunity to read our 2023 Annual Report. I could take some time to talk you through all the excitement and achievements of last year, but I am going to leave you to read those for yourselves and instead I want to focus briefly on some of our more recent activity and success bringing you up to date and sharing how you might get involved in the future.

I want to start with Zero Carbon Harrogate's retrofit programme which, is ably directed by trustee Louise McManus and delivered by our employed Retrofit Project Manager, John Kerr, with help from Nick Anderson on the energy generation side. With John's steady and persistent operating within the network of tradespeople and professions, he has been gradually building up the skilled workforce needed for a local retrofit revolution.

John is going to give some details about the project at the end of this AGM. However, I think it is important to understand that 20% of our local greenhouse gas emissions come from our homes and it is only through making our buildings more energy efficient and moving away from gas that we will be able

AGM

18th July 2024 7-9pm



to cut these emissions. It is currently a very hard area in which to effect change, and I want to pay tribute to both John and Louise for their commitment, in doing so much behind the scenes to lay the foundations for all of us to have the opportunity of warmer low carbon homes. If this is an area, you are interested in please do speak to John and Louise.

The ZCH Walk to School Days have continued to be very popular with local Primaries alongside Car Free Fridays involving our Secondary Schools. One of the best parts of my role is attending local schools on these days along with our partners Harrogate Town FC and their mascot Harrigator. It's great to see how parents and children appreciate the celebration of their daily walking commute to school. At this point, I want to thank Fiona Jones who has been the driver (if you will excuse the terminology) behind our walk to school days for many years now. We are sad to say goodbye to Fiona. She has been inspirational and very generous in giving her time to this valuable work. We are on the hunt for a range of volunteers who could help to support our schools' work.

Our School Leaders Sustainability Roundtable picked up on the school commute theme when we brought together Multi Academy Trust leaders to hear about creative travel to school solutions in March. We were kindly hosted by Transdev at their Bus Academy at the Starbeck Bus Depot, and it was fun to see CEOs of large MATs getting excited about being in the bus yard where Harrogate Bus company's electric charging infrastructure was being installed. However, they did take very seriously the sustainability, safety and health implications of their pupils' travel to and from school. Kath Clark our part time Operations Manager was key in organising this forum. We were disappointed when Kath left us in February as her three day a week support has been invaluable in increasing ZCH's capacity and reach.

To fill that gap, after we successfully secured funding from the Climate Action Fund's Shared Prosperity Fund, we are delighted to have appointed Sunita Souder as Climate Action Coordinator from the beginning of May. Sunita comes with climate campaigning experience and a range of communication skills, which are proving to be a real asset.

These were quickly brought into play as we sprung into action when the general election was announced. Having successfully delivered a Mayoral candidate hustings event in April; we offered a similar event for you and the wider public to meet the parliamentary candidates in June and held in- depth informal interviews to dig down into the candidates' climate priorities and policies. These can still be viewed on our website. We are now looking forward to working with our newly elected MP, Tom Gordon. Our Vice Chair, Tim Lerner, leads on political engagement and we would welcome more volunteers to support this critical area of ZCH's work.

Our political engagement effort, advocating for strong climate policies at all levels of government, is now working in close partnership with the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition. Recognising that this body needed additional resource to be a more effective voice for the 25-member environment groups from across North Yorkshire we sought additional backing from the Climate Action Fund's Shared Prosperity

AGM

18th July 2024 7-9pm



Fund to employ a two day a week role for the Coalition. As the Coalition is yet to be legally constituted, ZCH is hosting this role and is delighted to have Ed Lee on our staff until the Coalition can act as Ed's employer.

Going forward the trustees and programme group leads will be striving to deliver on our objectives to Engage, Educate and Encourage climate action as we seek to rapidly decarbonise our economy.

Having a vision of what this looks like is key, so we have been pleased to work with the Harrogate Civic Society to initiate a Neighbourhood Plan Forum for Harrogate Town which, with a diverse range of community groups and businesses represented, met for the first-time last week. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan, a planning document like the Local Plan, can be a slow and challenging task, but it ensures community collaboration and the development of a shared vision, which we hope will help to provide a greater consensus on future sustainable development.

We are very conscious that our local travel makes up 34% of the Harrogate district's carbon emissions. To increase awareness and drive behavioural change we are planning a series of focused campaigns on transport, for example spotlighting our car clubs, encouraging car sharing, making a better environment for pedestrians by running a campaign to reclaim pavements for people. This will require careful planning and partnership working. To step up to deliver this kind of consistent messaging we know we need to employ a Development Director and more communications support. To this end we will be running a funding campaign later this year to support these new roles and extend our existing paid posts.

The achievements of ZCH don't happen by magic, they are depended on a wide range of volunteers – I have not had time to mentioned them all - who offer their time and skills because they care about this planet, about this place and about the future for us all.

Jemima Parker 18.07.24

6. Treasurer's Report

Sue Campagna (SC) ZCH Treasurer explained that the donation of £10k, received from Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition, when the charities merged in October 2023, has provided a much-needed financial cushion and because ZCH accounts on a receipts and payments basis it looks like we have a small credit. Details of the Accounts are included in the 2023 Annual Report, which was circulated with the AGM notice to members.

7. Membership Report

As part of her Treasurer's remit SC reported that in 2022 ZCH had 50 fee paying members and in 2023, the year under report, there were only 45 fee paying members. Now that we have SS on board there will be a determined push to increase membership significantly.

AGM

18th July 2024 7-9pm



8. Retiring Trustees

As required by the constitution 1/3 of Trustees are required to retire at the AGM each year and may stand for re-election for three subsequent years followed by a mandatory break of three years. Trustees retiring are:

- i. Karen Kelsey-Wilson
- ii. Jessica Eaton
- iii. Jemima Parker

9. Election of Trustees and Trustee introductions

- I. Jemima Parker
- II. Dean Gregory

Both were elected unopposed.

10. Election of Office Holders)

- i. Chair: Jemima Parker
- ii. Vice-Chairs: Tim Lerner (Advocacy) and Chris Arnott (Governance)
- iii. Susan Campagna Treasurer
- iv. Secretary: Chris Arnott

All elected unanimously

11. AOB

- i. Retrofit:

JK, ZCH's Retrofit Programme Manager gave an update on progress on the Retrofit Project funded by the Energy Redress Scheme.

Through his work we now understand a lot more about local and national challenges and solutions. John has visited an outstanding retrofit One Stop Shop in the Republic of Ireland to identify other good exemplars nationally for us to follow.

We are providing Heat Pump Installation Training as well as new training for Retrofit Assessors, Retrofit Designers and Retrofit Coordinators. Feedback from these professionals indicates that their training does not always adequately prepare them for the complexity they may face how to make some homes more thermally efficient and this causes some drop off in participation.

Rethink Retrofit, a CIC, launched as a One Stop Shop in November 2023, supplying retrofit assessment, design and project management. JK was involved in an advisory role at the early stages.

AGM

18th July 2024 7-9pm

**ZERO
CARBON
HARROGATE**

Challenges remain with the supply chain for retrofit materials. Current suppliers believe it is too complicated so difficult to source trades who can support retrofit adequately.

JK believes current building regulations are inadequate and poorly enforced, need reviewing urgently and once sorted will force trades to comply.

Paul Haslam pointed out that current building regulations are a minimum standard and not a required standard and that this point needs to be laboured

Talk By Sir Piers Forster, UK Climate Change Committee Chair and ZCH Patron

‘How well is the UK doing against its published Climate Action Plan?’

Video link attached <https://youtu.be/PtgMI6nulec>



Climate Talk with Piers Forster
Director at the Priestley International Centre for Climate, and Interim Chair of the UK's Climate Change Committee (CCC)

Esteemed climate scientist Professor Piers Forster imparts his expert knowledge on how we meet the UK Government's Carbon Budgets at Zero Carbon Harrogate's AGM held in July 2024.

**ZERO
CARBON
HARROGATE**

The graphic features a dark grey header with the title 'Climate Talk with Piers Forster' and his title. Below this is a green box with white text describing the talk. To the right is a photograph of Professor Piers Forster, a man with glasses and a blue suit, smiling. A 'ZERO CARBON HARROGATE' logo is overlaid on the bottom right of the photo.

Close 9pm.