



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Monday 10th November 2025
7pm, Green Room

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); Jo Hughes; Ross Piper, Jean Pittaway, Andy France, Martin O'Shea, William Barnes, Mark Dimes, Nicola Booth Guest- William Barnes to discuss Community Interest Company
Apologies	John Reardon, Alan Wilkinson, John Matthissen, Richard Pittaway.
Minutes of last meeting	Agreed
Update	Himalayan Balsam Removal We removed a lot! Orchard Has been well looked after and John kept us up to date with rain levels. Hose has been installed however it was very slow therefore containers were more efficient. Middle School Field Still waiting for the bench installation however capacity in the office beyond compliance has been limited. Recruitment means there will be improved capacity going forward. TPO Has been issued Meadow Management No noticeable difference with the piece of land at Pinecroft. This is causing issues in the area with residents who feel it is looking a mess. Volunteers Have got some great volunteers who were involved in planting and watering.
Tree care over the summer	Many thanks to all involved with keeping the orchard going- especially Kate, Gary and Nicole.
Budget	<u>24-25 retained £2000-£2500 budget</u> Signage 9 small signs and 1 large sign. Meadow management- Overseeding meadow management areas to help it fulfil its potential. Tree protection Upscale the protection for the trees in the orchard.
Terms of reference	We looked at our part of the community and assets committee responsibilities and discussed its relevance. Considered reframing the terms of reference for improving the local community.
Open Garden Day	07.06.2026 Create activities in the community orchard. Could consider Climate Change Gardening to have a stall on that day.
Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan	Nicola to attend meeting on 13 th November 7pm where Angela Long- (development advisor) will be then a formal working group will consider options.
Sustainable community Day	Jean shared information of the day and how useful it was. Some talks such as - Climate change gardening -resilient to climate and how to fix it Stalls – e.g. Suffolk wildlife trust, plug in Suffolk car club Workshops in the afternoon which attendees participated in.
Land behind Chalkeith Road	1991 was the last year that this land was harvested. It is now scrub land- chalk grassland there is 20 acres of great biodiversity.

	Dan Pratt has contacted the owner who may be willing to sell the land. A community interest company means that grants can be applied for- The grant will only be issued at market value. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-interest-companies-how-to-form-a-cic/community-interest-companies-guidance-chapters This is a charity but also a corporate entity. 10-12 individuals are needed to support this group. A regulator must agree that it is of use to the community. Individuals would be 'share holders' and going forward look at how to protect the area. Interested parties Jo Hughes Andy France Mark Dimes Nicola Booth Richard Pittaway
TPO	The Cedars have now got tree preservation orders. John Matthissen thinks that it would be good to have some celebration regarding this. To be discussed at the next meeting.
AOB	What direction are we going in next? Please consider this for the next meeting.
Next Meeting	12 th January 2026