

## RCCP Board Meeting – Minutes

**Date:** 15 January 2026

**Time:** 10 – 12pm

**Chair:** Dylan Parkes

---

### 1. Welcome & previous minutes and actions

- Previous minutes were endorsed and progress towards actions noted.

---

### 2. Update on Climate Emergency Strategy & Action Plan (GF)

- The new 5-year plan has been **formally adopted by Council**.
- Work still required on:
  - Communications
  - Distilled version

The comms will position the strategy & action plan as a **shared vision** for a “greener, happier, healthier, more connected and climate-friendly Reading” and **framework for collective action**. We will invite all local people and organisations to find their place in this framework for place-based climate action. Key objectives will be to (1) attract new people into RCCP working groups and (2) to inspire new climate action in local homes and organisations in line with the shared vision.

#### RELATED ACTIONS:

The Reading Climate Festival will take the bulk of GF’s 2.5 days per week from March until end of June 2026, leaving little to no time to do targeted stakeholder engagement for the new plan. As a minimum **GF** will:

- Commission and oversee final layout and design of new strategy and supporting images (*done*)
- Prepare key messages and narrative around why and how to get involved (*done*)
- Set up mechanisms for participation (*done – good response*)
- Set up website landing page (*done*)
- Email core deliberative group and other key stakeholders (*done*)
- Send a newsletter announcing the new strategy (*done*)
- Work with RBC on a press release (*done*)

When time allows, GF will work on:

- a distilled and more action-oriented version of the plan (*in progress but additional research is needed*)
- Master slide deck for presentations (*to be completed for Reading Climate Festival prez*)
- Basic comms toolkit
- Local Climate Communications Alliance

- Launch Comms Working Group
- 

### 3. Review of Partnership Agreement (DP)

- Current agreement is **outdated** (membership, expectations, purpose).
- Needs refresh aligned with:
  - New strategy
  - Current resources
  - Future growth ambitions

#### ACTIONS:

- **DP & HM**
    - Lead review of partnership agreement
- 

### 5. Schools engagement discussion

- Challenges:
  - School capacity
  - Overcrowded engagement landscape

#### Agreed direction

- Focus on **signposting existing resources** on our website
- Use **Comms Alliance model** to amplify reach

#### ACTIONS:

- **GF:** Include schools within Comms Alliance approach
  - **DP:** Explore linking RCCP with university school engagement work
- 

### 6. Update on Theme Leads (GF)

- New model will be to split role into:
  - One Council co-lead per theme
  - One Community co-lead per theme
- Council commitment to this new model has been confirmed. It may take some months before Council people are appointed and time is allocated for the roles.
- Board to vote on two new candidates before next Board Meeting: Adrian Lawson (Nature) and Eugene Mohareb (Food). No current candidate for the vacant Beyond Waste / Circular Economy role. (*GF has approached Erica Purvis – waiting to hear.*)

#### ACTIONS:

- **GF:** Set up Board vote
  - **GF & BB:** Drive Council participation
  - **DP & GF:** Meet with successful candidates to discuss Nolan Principles, job role
  - **All Board Members:** Help find candidate for Beyond Waste theme
-

## 7. Update on National Lottery Bid (Climate Action Fund) (GF)

### Update on Bid

- GF submitted bid on 16 Dec 2026
- Request: £1.5 million over 3 to 4 years
- We can expect to hear if we have been invited to progress to Stage 2 within 8 to 14 weeks; we will hear either way

### Scenarios

- **A:** Continue with current limited resources and rewrite RCCP Partnership Agreement to better reflect reality; minimal role for RCCP to include guiding new 5-year plan and related Working Groups; running annual Climate Festival and minimal comms related to above
- **B:** Fully funded model; if the bid for £1.5 million is successful we could transition into a resourced and staff organisation set up to drive place-based transformation through whole systems approaches
- **C:** If the bid is not successful we could seek smaller pots of funding for discrete projects and roles, but this would require resource within RCCP, i.e. to convene, write and service bids

### If successful

- RCCP transitions into a staffed, resourced organisation with a Board
- RCCP positions itself as an orchestrated ecosystem for place-based change
- RCCP commissions science-based pathway to net zero as part of a larger, more holistic approach to place-based change

### ACTIONS:

- **GF:** Re-circulate final bid document
- **Board:** Begin considering fallback funding options (Scenario C)

---

## 8. General Points

- Need to **revitalise partnership** alongside strategy launch
  - Urgency to:
    - Fill theme lead roles and attract people into working groups
    - Strengthen engagement structure to allow groups to work holocratically
-