

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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AGENDA

Meeting: **Climate and Environment Committee**
Date: **6th February 2024**
Time: **7.00 p.m.**
Place: **Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone.**

To: **The Climate and Environment Committee**
(All other Councillors for information only)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to contact the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Toni Brenchley

T Brenchley
Town Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and approve any apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.

3. **MINUTES**

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 3rd October 2023 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

4. **SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWERBEDS**

Members are asked if it wishes to consider continuing to sponsor planting of F & HDC owned flower & shrub beds and if so, at what level – FTC's current allotted budget is £35,000.

A suggestion has been put forward that FTC should potentially reduce the amount of any further funding support and only contribute to the costs of planting FTC assets:

- 4No x large planters (2 at Bouverie Road West near the traffic lights and 2 at Rendezvous Street near the town barrier)
- 6No x small planters (on pathway at the side of the Leas Cliff Hall)
- 2No x large planters (outside Town Hall)
- Railing plant tubs (Castle Hill Avenue, Cheriton High Street and Hill Road)

5. GRASS CUTTING

Folkestone Town Council regularly receive complaints from Members of the public, local businesses and retailers via its Customer Service desk that, grass cutting across Folkestone is generally poor and at an unacceptable level of regularity.

Members views are sought and are asked if they wish for the Town Clerk to write to F & HDC seeking an update in respect of this provision including details of any scheduled improvement works.

6. TREE PLANTING

Further to suggestions from members of the public, requests have been received from several Ward Councillors in respect of planting trees in specific Folkestone Wards with the associated costs to be supported with a contribution from the specific Members allowances in the Members Ward Grant Funding budget.

The C & E Officer is currently awaiting a response from KCC as to the viability of planting at the suggested sites and if it is possible to do so, an indication from them of whether this can be done in the current 2023/24 planting season which ends in March 2024 and as such, will update the committee presenting specific details at the meeting.

Members views will be sought and if appropriate, the committee will be asked if it wishes to release any funding from the 2023/24 Tree Planting Budget to support the new installations.

7. PLAY AREAS

On 9th November 2023 the annual park inspections were carried out by RoSPA Play Safety Ltd. The parks, having been recently refurbished, are in excellent condition with only a few 'medium risks' to consider on the older refurbished equipment. The main tasks are below:

- Southern Way* - One of the litter bins at Southern Way Park is old and the liner has perished. Whilst there are two litter bins in the park (an additional litter bin was fitted as part of the refurbishment) this park is used regularly and both litter bins are essential in helping keep the park litter free.

The Committee is asked to consider releasing £500 from the Litter Bins and Bollards budget for the purchase of a new litter bin.

- Pine Way* – The gates were not included in the park refurbishment. The gate at Pine Way does not self-close and is unsteady, the fencing is old and the maintenance gates are not ideal, however, we have been reassured the fencing and maintenance gate can last a little longer but not the entrance gate. The gate on Biggins Wood Road, although newer, is wooden and has become unsteady. After repairs were made it was discovered the gate has started to rot and is need of replacement.

Three quotes were sought for 2 x new gates, the best quote is for £998.50 each. This would be for self-closing metal play area gates.

- iii. *Funding* - The Communities and Grants Officer has applied for funding through the KCC Member Grant Scheme for funds towards general repairs and upkeep in the parks.

The Committee is asked to note the purchase of 2 x new gates for Pine Way from the Play Parks budget along with the additional grant funding.

8. ENGAGEMENT WITH HIGHWAYS ENGLAND, KCC AND FHDC

Further to Members requesting at the last C & EC meeting, that they would like FTC to be consulted by various authorities and agencies in respect of their proposed plans for initiatives and schemes scheduled for Folkestone, the Committee are asked to put forward any suggestions of current projects they wish for the Town Clerk to write to the appropriate authority to gain an overview of.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2nd April 2024 at 7.00pm

Councillors on Committee

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Jane Darling
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Jackie Meade
Councillor Lucy McGirr
Councillor Liz McShane
Councillor John Renshaw
Councillor Roger West

Parking available for Councillors @ 6.00pm on the precinct area at the front of the Town Hall.



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd October 2023 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo–Kelly (Chair), Jane Darling, Lucy McGirr, John Renshaw and Roger West.

Absent: Councillors Charles Bain-Smith and Jackie Meade

In attendance: Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Liz McShane and Kieran Leigh.

RESOLVED: To accept Councillors Liz McShane and Kieran Leigh apologies.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

80. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 6th June 2023 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

81. CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Committee were asked to consider merging with the Community Services Committee and Best Practice Terms of Reference being created whilst determining the working practices of the future. Any changes the Committee resolved to make must be approved by Full Council at a future meeting.

After much debate it was

RESOLVED: That the committees should not merge and that the two respective meetings be held on consecutive weeks both commencing at

7pm on a Tuesday or Thursday subject to a review of the Schedule of Meetings by Full Council.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

82. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

In line with the Town Council's adopted Standing Orders, the Committee was asked to consider the Terms of Reference for the Climate & Environment Committee. Any changes the Committee resolved to make must be approved by Full Council at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following amendments and additions be made to the existing Terms of Reference:

- a) Item 1. To exercise the powers and duties of the Town Council on the following highways and transportation matters and where appropriate, submit proposals to the responsible authority further to engagement with Highways England, Kent County Council and Folkestone & Hythe District Council:
- b) Item 1. d) Traffic and Parking
- c) Item 2. To exercise the powers and duties of the Town Council on the physical environment of the town further to engagement with all associated stakeholders, including:
- d) Item 2. j) Beaches and Harbour – Engage with relevant stakeholders including Southern Water and The Harbour Company
- e) Item 3. a) Support for projects and organisations in Folkestone which aim to: promote biodiversity and wildlife *habitats*, improve air quality and support renewable energy generation
- f) Item 3. d) Facilities and engagement for young people

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

83. COMMUNITIES & EVENTS OFFICER REPORT CS/23/346

The committee was asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED:

- a) **To receive and note Report CE/23/346 and that a vote of congratulations be recorded in respect of achieving Fairtrade Town Status for Folkestone.**

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

- b) i. **That the current 2023 /24 remaining tree planting budget of £4,891 be vired to General Reserves for the purpose of grounds maintenance.**

ii. **That sponsorship of F & HDC owned flower and shrub beds ceases immediately and that the existing 2023 /24 FTC earmarked budget of £33,264 is vired to General Reserves for the purpose of purchasing equipment and plants to maintain FTC planters.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

84. BUDGET 2023/24 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

At this juncture the Committee was asked to consider proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for climate & environment projects and initiatives for next year. The Finance & General Purposes Committee will consider the full list of proposals put forward by all Committees at its meeting on the 14th December 2023.

RESOLVED: There were no budget proposals made.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

85. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7pm (TBC)

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

Chairman

Date