

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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AGENDA

Meeting: **Climate and Environment Committee**
Date: **Tuesday 4th June 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
Town Clerk

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**
To appoint a Chair for the Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
- 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**
To appoint a Vice Chair for the Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.

5. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 2nd April 2024 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

6. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

7. WORKING GROUPS 2024/25

The Committee is asked to consider whether any Working Groups are necessary and if so, approve nominations (as follows) for membership for 2024/25:

Allotments: Cllrs Keen, Meade and West (Cllr Lucy McGirr - Substitute if a member not available).

Fairtrade: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Darling, McShane and Meade.

Parks and Open Spaces: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Dickinson, Gane, Lockwood, McGirr and Renshaw.

Trees: Cllrs Chapman, Lockwood, Meade and Walker.

8. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWER AND SHRUB BEDS

At the last C & EC meeting Members

RESOLVED:

That subject to approval at the next C & E Committee meeting, £15,000 be allocated to the provision of new planters (including seasonal planting and maintenance) at new sites in Folkestone and Cheriton.

The C & E Officer will update the Committee in respect of potential sites further to having written to all Councillors asking for suggestions in their respective Wards.

In addition, further to Members requesting that F & HDC are contacted to ascertain what grounds maintenance work / flower and shrub bed planting is scheduled at lower Radnor Park and if they can identify any flower / shrub beds and / or planters (e.g. O/S Tyre Fix, Risborough Lane) that would be suitable for community groups, faith & youth organisations and schools to adopt, the C & E Officer will update the Committee.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8th October 2024 @ 7.00pm

COUNCILLORS ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Nicola Keen
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Lucy McGirr
Councillor Liz McShane

Councillor John Renshaw
Councillor Belinda Walker

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, 2nd April 2024 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo – Kelly (Chair), Charles Bain-Smith, Jane Darling, Peter Gane (Cllr Roger West's Substitute), Lucy McGirr, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw

In attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk
Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillor Kieran Leigh, Liz McShane and Roger West.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Kieran Leigh, Liz McShane and Roger West.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly and Jackie Meade declared an interest in Item 4 as Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors.

97. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 6th February 2024 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 February 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

98. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWER AND SHRUB BEDS REPORT CE/24/363

Members were asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the attached report.

RESOLVED:

1. To receive and note Report CS/363
2. To allocate £10,000 of the 2024/25 Flowerbeds Budget for sponsorship of the F & HDC winter and summer planting with a plaque to include Folkestone Town

Council's crest and detailing its support to be installed at each site.

3. To allocate £6,000 of the 2024/25 Flowerbeds Budget and instruct an external contractor to seasonally plant (twice a year) and maintain FTC assets (as detailed below):

- 4No x Large Folkestone Planters – 2No near pedestrian crossing at Bouverie Road West and 2No near town barrier on Rendezvous Street
- 6No x Small Folkestone Planters – side of Leas Cliff Hall
- 25No x FTC Railings Planters – Castle Hill Avenue
- 10No x Cheriton Railing Planters – Cheriton High Street
- 10No x Hill Road Railing Planters

4. That subject to approval at the next C & E Committee meeting, £15,000 be allocated to the provision of new planters (including seasonal planting and maintenance) at new sites in Folkestone and Cheriton.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

Members requested that F & HDC are contacted to ascertain what grounds maintenance work / flower and shrub bed planting is scheduled at lower Radnor Park.

A request was also made that the C & E Officer write to F & HDC asking if they can identify any flower / shrub beds and / or planters (e.g. O/S Tyre Fix, Risborough Lane) that would be suitable for community groups, faith & youth organisations and schools to adopt.

99. GRASS CUTTING

At the last Climate & Environment committee meeting it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk write to F & HDC and KCC seeking information regarding what grass cutting is scheduled in Folkestone annually to include details of areas that are left uncut and the reasons why.

The Town Clerk updated the committee advising that she had received a response from an F & HDC Officer who indicated that FTC would need to contact District Councillor Speakman in respect of sites that are left uncut. To date, no response has been received in respect of the town's grass cutting schedule.

Cllr Jackie Meade advised the committee that she would follow up with the F & HDC to ascertain what grassed areas are left uncut / wild to support bees and other insects / wildlife and update members at the next committee meeting.

Noted

100. PLAY AREAS – OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS

The Committee were advised that the operational inspections included within the tender process have now come to an end. The Town Council has found an external company to continue with the operational inspections on a 6 monthly basis as an essential part of the ongoing maintenance and management of the parks. For the 2024/25 financial year, Zurich will be conducting a thorough inspection of the equipment of all 8 parks with detailed reports to the Communities and Grants Officer.

Noted

101. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4TH June 2024 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

Chair

Date



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – 9 MEMBERS

1. To exercise the powers and duties of the Town Council on the following highways and transportation and where appropriate, submit proposals to the responsible authority further to engagement with Highways England, Kent County Council and Folkestone & Hythe District Council:
 - a) Cycling and cycle ways
 - b) Community transport
 - c) Public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways
 - d) Traffic and Parking

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:
 - a) Management of open spaces and common land
 - b) Public Parks, Gardens (inc. Community Gardens), Recreation and Pleasure Grounds (inc. Tree Planting and Flowerbeds with associated carbon emission compensation strategies)
 - c) Provision of play equipment, sports and recreation facilities
 - d) Allotments (inc. biodiversity development plan and establishment of 'bug hotels')
 - e) Engagement with Allotments Associations
 - f) Implementation and monitoring of the council's action plan for becoming carbon neutral by 2030
 - g) Climate & Environment Communications with Community Partnership Working
 - h) Plastic Free Folkestone
 - i) Folkestone Fairtrade Status
 - j) Beaches and Harbour – Engage with relevant stakeholders including Southern Water and the Harbour Company

3. To consider and make recommendations on:
 - a) Support for projects and organisations in Folkestone which aim to: promote biodiversity and wildlife habitats, improve air quality, support renewable energy generation
 - b) Litter Management (via schemes such as 'Keep Folkestone Beautiful Campaign')
 - c) Climate Change / Action Plan and Carbon Reduction Strategy
 - d) Facilities and engagement for young people

4. To prepare budgetary forecasts, where necessary, on any of the above activities for inclusion in the Town Council's budget for the following financial year and submit these to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the Autumn to calculate the precept for the ensuing year.

5. To consider and make recommendations to the Council on any changes to these terms of reference that might be required to enable the committee to adapt to changing circumstances and be better prepared to carry out its mission.