

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo–Kelly (Chair), Jane Darling, Kieran Leigh, Liz McShane, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw and Roger West.

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

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Charles Bain-Smith and Lucy McGirr.

RESOLVED: To accept Councillors Charles Bain-Smith and Lucy McGirr apologies.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

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

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Abena Akuffo – Kelly, Liz McShane and Jackie Meade declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 89 ‘*Sponsorship of Planting F & HDC Owned Flowerbeds*’ as F & HDC Councillors.

88. MINUTES

The Committee was asked 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.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

89. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWERBEDS

Members were asked if they wished to consider continuing to sponsor planting of F & HDC owned flower & shrub beds for 2024/25 and if so, at what level.

RESOLVED: That any flower or shrub beds funded by FTC should have a plaque installed indicating their ownership and management and to be provided by FTC.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

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

RESOLVED: That this Item be deferred to the next meeting with a Report to include details of quotes from external contractors for the supply, installation and maintenance of plants in Folkestone Town Council assets (as follows):

- 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)

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

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

Members requested that the C & E Officer pursue the viability and potential of volunteers watering FTC assets and to identify any additional suitable sites for the installation of new planters.

90. GRASS CUTTING

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

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.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

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

91. TREE PLANTING

Further to suggestions from members of the public, a request was received from Ward Councillors in respect of planting trees in Cheriton West Ward with the associated costs to be potentially supported with a contribution from the specific Members Ward Grant allowances.

Further to receiving a response from KCC, the C & E Officer updated the Committee advising that FTC had been informed the site near Folkestone West was not practical for tree planting due to it being narrow and the *'foreseeability for root deflection damage to the car park would be too great'*.

Noted

Cllr John Renshaw requested that further to his suggestion at a previous C & E Committee meeting, an update regarding potential tree planting on MOD land at Beckwith Green, Craufurd Green and Mackenzie Drive be provided. The Communities & Events Officer advised that this would be pursued.

92. 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. Members were advised of the main tasks requiring completion.

Noted

93. ENGAGEMENT WITH HIGHWAYS ENGLAND, KCC, FHDC AND OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES

Further to Members advising 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 were asked to put forward any suggestions of current projects they would like to request for the Town Clerk to write to the appropriate authority to gain an overview of.

Cllr John Renshaw indicated that it would be helpful if details of how Southern Water treatment works are delivered and specifically if existing / planned infrastructure sufficiently covers requirements in respect of Folkestone Harbour Company development plans.

Cllr Jackie Meade advised that KCC are provided with regular updates from Southern Water and therefore, she would research if there is any information available in this respect and report back to the committee accordingly.

Cllr Jane Darling spoke regarding her concerns regarding the safety of the streets in Folkestone for pedestrians with specific reference to the town centre one way system and issues with crossing the associated roads.

The Town Clerk responded advising that the LUF – Folkestone A Brighter Future aims to address these issues.

Cllr John Renshaw informed Members of the MOD's proposals to remove their underground petrol tanks at Shorncliffe and replace with ground level installations and as such, requested that FTC engage with the MOD / Taylor Wimpey to ascertain if any plans have been approved.

94. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.35pm.

Chairman

Date

DRAFT