

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