

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 8th October 2024 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Kieran Leigh, Lucy McGirr (Chair), Liz McShane, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

Absent: Councillor Charles Bain Smith

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

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Nicola Keen and Belinda Walker.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillor Nicola Keen and Councillor Belinda Walker.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

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

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

113. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 4th June 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 4th June 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

114. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – KCC PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Committee's views were sought for review by the Town Clerk to be incorporated in her letter to KCC on behalf of FTC in response to the consultation.

The consultation was noted however, no comments were submitted by Members.

115. FLOWER & SHRUB PLANTERS

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of potential new sites suggested by Ward Councillors for new planters (including seasonal planting and maintenance) and provided a breakdown and explanation of costs.

RESOLVED:

i) That subject to the C & E Officer following up with F & HDC and KCC regarding the viability of the proposed sites the following locations be agreed:

- Blackbull Road railings (both sides of road nr Mundella Primary School)
- The Stade
- Cheriton High Street (nr Old Post Office)
- Junction of Dover Road and Canterbury Road (railings under bridge)
- Pavilion Road railings
- Broadmead Village (Village Shop)
- Sandgate Road (Adjacent to Westbourne Gardens nr bus stop)
- Junction of Mount Pleasant Road and Bellevue Street (under viaduct)

ii) That the following suggested sites be declined as the Committee's view is that F & HDC will install planters in these areas as part of their 'Folkestone – A Brighter Future' scheme renovations.

- Guildhall Street
- Central Station (nr bus stop)

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

The Communities & Events Officer updated Members on the Flowerbeds Budget and instructing 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

RESOLVED: That subject to F & HDC providing a written assurance that the planters are of the high, visually pleasing standard of summer 2024, £6,000 of the 2024 / 25 Flowerbeds Budget be released for F & HDC to carry out the planting.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

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

116. KCC NATIONAL LOTTERY CLIMATE ACTION FUND BID

The Community & Events Officer updated the Committee on the KCC and Take the Jump bid for the national lottery's Climate Action Fund which aims to inspire individuals, organisations and communities throughout Kent to make a real difference in climate action.

Cllr John Renshaw and the C & E Officer agreed to attend KALC Climate Change Conference on 5th November and feedback information gathered to members at the next committee meeting.

117. TREE PLANTING 2024/25

The Committee reviewed the draft tree planting schedule and

RESOLVED: That the schedule of soft sites be approved and £10,308 of the 2024 / 25 Trees Budget be released for KCC to carry out new planting.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

118. BUDGET 2024 / 25 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS / CORPORATE PLAN

At this juncture it was

RESOLVED: That Item 11 be removed from the agenda as it was a duplication of Item 8.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane

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

The Committee considered proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for climate & environment projects and initiatives for next year.

Following the FTC Corporate Plan Public Consultation ending, and the review of Folkestone residents' comments by the Corporate Plan Working Group, members considered comments and areas highlighted from the consultation, whilst identifying potential growth items. The Town Clerk updated Members on the following Town Council services under this Committee's governance:

- Allotments – Investigate the availability of land in Folkestone that is viable for the potential use as FTC owned / managed allotment sites.
- Litter bins:
 - i) Ensure comments from consultation respondents regarding lack of public litter bins in Folkestone are forwarded to F & HDC.

- ii) Contact F & HDC requesting an increase in the number of public litter bins in Folkestone and / or the number of attendances to each site on the emptying schedules.
- Salt bins – Raise public awareness of the assets owned by FTC by installing its logo and contact details (and other specific information where appropriate) and repair / replace damaged salt bins.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That this Item be reconsidered after agenda Item 12 ‘Water Quality Monitoring at Folkestone’s Beaches’ was reviewed by Members.**
 Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
 Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly
 Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0
- ii) **That £4,000 for water quality monitoring be proposed as a budget growth item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider at its meeting on 12th December 2024.**
 Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
 Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh
 Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0

119. FAIRTRADE

The C & E Officer updated the committee in respect of delivered actions relating to FTC’s Fairtrade accreditation. Members thoughts were sought in respect of potential actions and tasks for delivery to fulfil the requirement of continued campaigning and awareness raising of Fairtrade.

It was suggested that a quarterly newsletter could potentially be produced and distributed to local retailers, businesses, schools, youth & faith groups etc.

Other suggestions included a Mayor’s charity event being organised with a Fairtrade theme, Fairtrade stands to be hosted by FTC at the Folkestone and Cheriton Christmas lights switch on events and to reach out to the Nepalese Community as some of its members are past tea pickers.

120. PLAY PARKS – FENCING AND GATES PINE WAY REPORT CE/24/368

The Committee was asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the Report.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note Report CE/24/368**
- ii) **That up to £10,000 is vired from the Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve Budget, subject to approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0

121. WATER QUALITY MONITORING AT FOLKESTONE'S BEACHES

At the Full Council meeting on 19th September, it was

RESOLVED: That the Climate & Environment Committee further discuss the independent monitoring of the water quality on Folkestone's beaches (Sunny Sands and the Mermaid beach).

Cllr John Renshaw briefed the Committee on how the testing could potentially be carried out and approximate costs further to liaising with Sandgate and new Romney Parish Councils who currently undertake water quality monitoring.

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr John Renshaw and the C & E Officer liaise and follow up with the relevant companies and organisations to establish exact costs and implications of providing this service and to feedback to the Committee at its next meeting for further review and consideration.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

122. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

Chair

Date