

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd June 2025 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Liz McShane, Roger West, John Renshaw and Belinda Walker.

In attendance: Toni Brenchley - Town Clerk

Apologies: Councillors Lucy McGirr and Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Absent: Councillor Charles Bain Smith

144. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Lucy McGirr and Abena Akuffo-Kelly.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Lucy McGirr and Abena Akuffo-Kelly.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

145. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Committee were asked to appoint a Chair for the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor John Renshaw as Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

146. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Committee were asked to appoint a Vice Chair for the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Kieran Leigh as Vice Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

148. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 1st April 2025 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2025 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Nicola West

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

149. 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.

RESOLVED: That the existing version of the Terms of Reference remain unchanged.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

150. WORKING GROUPS 2024/25

The Committee was asked to consider whether any Working Groups are necessary and if so, approve nominations for membership for 2025/26.

Suggested Working Groups are as follows:

- Allotments
- Fairtrade
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Trees

RESOLVED: That the Working Groups for 2025/26 be as follows:

- **Allotments**
Councillors Nicola Keen, Roger West and Jackie Meade
- **Fairtrade**
Councillors Liz McShane, Jackie Meade, Belinda Walker
- **Parks and Open Spaces**
Councillors Nicola Keen, Belinda Walker and John Renshaw
- **Trees**
Councillor Belinda Walker

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

151. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The Committee was updated by Councillor John Renshaw, regarding outcomes and priority actions identified at meetings with local stakeholders. Folkestone Rescue are keen to be involved and Councillors Renshaw, Walker and Keen also expressed an interest in being included on a rota for collecting water samples. Folkestone Seabathers to be contacted.

152. FAIRTRADE UPDATE

The Committee discussed priority actions to retain the Fairtrade Community status, which has been re-awarded to Folkestone Town Council until April 2028. The Climate and Environment Officer is engaging with local schools and a Fairtrade Newsletter is in the process of being developed.

153. ALLOTMENT RULES

The Town Clerk provided an update to the Committee regarding water usage at allotment sites. A Report on water usage and possible rent increases will be brought to the next Climate & Environment Committee Meeting in October. In the meantime, a sign in both English and Nepalese will be displayed at the sites requesting tenants to be considerate of other plot holders regarding water usage. The Committee discussed possible rule changes for allotment tenants. It was decided that there will be no limit on numbers in attendance on plots.

154. KENTS PLAN BEE RELEASE THE POLLINATOR TOOLKIT AND POLLINATORS OF KENT GUIDE

The Committee engaged in a general discussion around the best ways to enhance allotment sites and play parks for pollinators and other wildlife. Councillor Belinda Walker will liaise with the Administration Officer in regards to producing an article on bee keeping for the Community Magazine.

155. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7:46pm.

Chair

Date