

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Roger West, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker, Lucy McGirr, Laura Davison and Abena Akuffo-Kelly (Arrived at 19.09pm).

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

Apologies: Councillors Kieran Leigh and Lucy McGirr

161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Kieran Leigh and Lucy McGirr.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Kieran Leigh and Lucy McGirr

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

163. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 24 July 2025 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 24 July 2025 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly arrived at this juncture.

164. FAIRTRADE

The Committee's views were sought in respect of suggested priority actions for the Fairtrade Steering Group's required actions and initiatives, in order to ensure the retention of Folkestone's Fairtrade Community status accreditation.

RESOLVED: That the Communities & Events Officer and Town Councillors encourage schools, youth groups, faith and community groups to become further involved to continue to raise awareness for the Fairtrade programme.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

165. ALLOTMENT RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Following consultation with the Allotment Associations, the Committee was asked to consider the suggested rule changes and amendments in the document attached to the Agenda.

RESOLVED: That the amended allotment rules be approved and adopted subject to the additional changes as follows:

- 2.7** *Remove sentence – However, the other person can make a representation to the Council, before the tenant vacates the plot, seeking the Council's agreement to take over the tenancy.*
- 3.4** *iv) make 'butt' plural
ix)a) remove 'annually'
ix)b) add water butts 'from taps'
Add – Tenants must make it their own responsibility on how they use water, given it is untreated.*

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

166. RECYCLING OLD IT EQUIPMENT VIA I.T. PROVIDERS INITIATIVE – REPORT CE/25/397

The Committee was asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in Report CE/25/397.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive and note report CE/25/397**
- 2) That the Committee support the release of obsolete computer equipment through the current IT provider's initiative, Tools With A Mission (TWAM).**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

167. PLAY PARKS – PARK IMPROVEMENTS REPORT CE/25/398

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CE/25/398.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive and note report CE/25/398**
- 2) That the Committee received and noted the play designs in the report.**

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

168. BUDGET 2026/27 - POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

The Committee was asked to consider proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for Climate & Environment projects and initiatives for next year, with any proposal to be put forward for consideration to the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its Meeting of 23 October 2025.

After Members debate and consideration, it was concluded that no growth items or non-recurring revenue expenditure are required.

169. WATER QUALITY MONITORING AT FOLKESTONE'S BEACHES

The Committee was updated in respect of the findings from the research into the implications and requirements for FTC to commence a water testing programme, and the feasibility of continuing to deliver this initiative.

RESOLVED: That the progression of delivering a water testing initiative cease.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy Davison

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

170. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

Chair

Date