

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 4th February 2025 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Charlie Bain Smith, Lucy McGirr (Chair), Kieran Leigh, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

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

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Nicola Keen and Liz McShane.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Nicola Keen and Liz McShane.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

125. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 8th October 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 8th October 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

126. NEW PLANTERS

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in relation to pursuing with KCC and F&HDC the viability and estimated costs of installations at the new proposed sites for flower planters, agreed at the Committee's meeting in October 2024.

Members were advised that F & HDC require a pre-planning application to be completed and submitted to include redline site plans, supporting statement, site photos and evidence that neighbouring properties have been consulted.

This Item will be brought back to the next meeting for further consideration post Folkestone & Hythe District Councils and Kent County Councils assessments of the proposed sites once the planning application has been received from FTC.

Noted

127. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F&HDC OWNED FLOWERBEDS

The Committee considered whether to continue sponsoring the planting of F&HDC owned flower & shrub beds, and at what level to continue sponsorship.

RESOLVED: That up to £25,000 be released from the 2025/2026 Flowerbeds & Planters budget to support the F & HDC Schedule for 2025/2026 excluding, Dover Road, Lucy Avenue and Canterbury Road as these sites are due to be handed over to KCC in April.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Charlie Bain Smith

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 1, Ab: 0

128. TREE PLANTING

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of the forthcoming Tree Working Group meeting at which a draft Tree Planting Schedule will be developed.

All Councillors will be contacted ahead of this meeting inviting suggestions of prospective tree planting sites within their respective Wards.

The Tree Planting Schedule is to be reviewed by Members of the Climate & Environment Committee at its meeting in April with any hard sites required to be approved at this meeting and soft sites to be agreed by June / July.

Noted

129. PLAY PARKS - FENCING AT NASEBY AVENUE REPORT CE/25/378

The Committee received and noted Report CE/25/378.

The Town Clerk will research the viability of the materials to be used for the fencing.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agrees that the proposed work should proceed and recommend the Finance & General Purposes Committee to release Community Infrastructure Levy funds up to £10,000 to install fencing at Naseby Avenue Play Park.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

130. KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Committee was briefed in respect of the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy currently out for consultation. Given the significant amount of information to be reviewed and the high number of survey questions, it was agreed that all Councillors would be contacted advising that responses should be submitted independently should they wish to do so.

Noted

131. KALC CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – 5th November 2024

Cllr John Renshaw and the Communities & Events Officer provided feedback to Committee Members on information gathered at the conference.

RESOLVED: That FTC's current Climate Action Plan be developed and adapted by the Town Clerk and brought to the next Climate & Environment Committee meeting for Members review and input.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

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

132. FOLKESTONE BEACHES WATER QUALITY MONITORING - SUNNY SANDS & MERMAID BEACH

Councillor John Renshaw briefed the Committee on key information received at the meeting with Southern Water and the Environment Agency also attended by the Town Clerk and the Communities & Events Officer.

RESOLVED: That Cllr John Renshaw gather further information in respect of water quality monitoring and the Town Clerk obtain contacts within other authorities that are currently carrying out testing, establishing any legal implications, the benefits and how any results would be presented and published, with findings brought back to the next Climate & Environment Committee meeting for further review by members.

Proposed: Councillor Charlie Bain Smith

Seconded: Councillor Keiran Leigh

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

133. FAIRTRADE

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee Members in respect of latest goals and actions required to ensure FTC retains its Fairtrade Town accreditation, which is due for renewal on 2nd August 2025.

It was proposed that at the Fairtrade Working Group meeting scheduled for the end of February, an agreement would be sought in respect of priority goals including establishing a new product display in the Town Hall, re-engagement with local businesses, retailers, supermarkets, schools and church & faith groups and the production of a Fairtrade quarterly newsletter.

Noted

134. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Chair

Date