

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday,
3 February 2026 at the Town Hall at 7pm.**

Present: Councillors Laura Davison, Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, John Renshaw (Chair) and Belinda Walker.

In attendance: Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

Apologies: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Lucy McGirr and Roger West

Absent: Councillor Charles Bain Smith

171. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Lucy McGirr and Roger West.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Lucy McGirr and Roger West

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

172. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

173. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 7 October 2026 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That further to correcting details of Councillors present, recorded votes and Proposer Councillor name for Minute 169, the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

174. GREEN GRANT AWARD UPDATE

The Committee received and noted Report CE/26/409, which provided an update on how the Green Grant Award is being allocated.

175. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F&HDC OWNED FLOWERBEDS

The Committee was asked if it wished to consider continuing to sponsor planting of F & HDC owned flower & shrub beds and if so, at what level.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That subject to receipt of a written assurance from F & HDC confirming and detailing all locations on it's Summer and Winter Bedding Costs Schedule 2026 / 2027 will be planted and it will cover the funding shortfall of £16,854.73 (excluding VAT), Members approve the release of up to the maximum £25,000 FTC allotted 2026 / 2027 budget for sponsorship of the planting scheme.**
- ii) **Should F & HDC be unable to provide the requested written assurance, FTC will invite the Cabinet Member for Assets and Local Government Reorganisation to attend the Climate & Environment Committee meeting to be held on 7th April 2026.**

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison
Voting: F:4 , Ag:1, Ab:

176. TREE PLANTING

The Committees views were sought in respect of potential new tree planting sites. All Folkestone Town Councillors will be contacted by the Communities & Events Officer and asked to submit suggestions of sites within their respective wards. Details will be added to the draft Tree Planting Schedule to be reviewed at the next Tree Working Group meeting.

The updated schedule will be considered by Members at the next Climate & Environment Committee meeting on 7th April 2026.

177. SOUTHERN WATER ANNUAL BATHING WATER REPORT

The Committee received and noted the information supplied in the Annual report from Southern Water.

178. CIL CONSULTATION

Councillors views were sought on how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding should be allocated now that the public consultation has concluded.

RESOLVED:

i) **That the Town Clerk and Communities & Events Officer undertake further research to ascertain costs, required resource, land ownership, responsibility and viability of the following projects:**

- **Engagement with local schools teaching the value of managing and re-using rainwater to potentially include FTC assisting schools to install small SuDS planters and rainwater harvesting systems on their respective sites.**

- **Create a community meadow and food growing area developed with forest gardening principles at the green space beyond 'Jocks Pitch', Wear Bay Road and the enclosed / gated triangle of land opposite this site.**

Enhance biodiversity in this area by encouraging the use of semi-wild and self-sustaining crops.

Connect people with nature by installing integrated seating and meeting areas.

Introduction and delivery of courses in 'growing and wellbeing'.

Link projects at this site to the current Geopark proposal, existing Community Fridge initiative and other local food growing/sustainability networks.

- **Cheriton Road Cemetery to receive additional grounds maintenance including three grass strims annually with cuttings removed to encourage the return of wildflowers and increase numbers of butterflies, bees, insects, wagtails and other small birds.**

Regular inspections undertaken by a Community Officer and / or Ward Councillors to ensure any approved works are regularly carried out.

- ii) **Prepare a consolidated report combining the research outcomes with the results of follow-up actions for the projects resolved by the Community Services Committee and the Climate & Environment Committee to be progressed. The report is to be included on the agenda for the next Climate & Environment Committee meeting on 7 April 2026 for Members' review and determination on how to proceed with a final review by the newly combined Community, Climate & Environment Committee.**

179. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7 April 2026 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.56pm.

Chair

Date

DRAFT