

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community, Climate & Environment Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, 1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Jane Darling, Laura Davison, Peter Gane, Nicola Keen, Lucy McGirr, John Renshaw and Belinda Walker.

Apologies: Councillor Roger West.

**In Attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk
Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer
Coralie Clover – Museum Manager / Curator**

Absent: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Charles Bain Smith, Bridget Chapman and Kieran Leigh

The Town Clerk opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Roger West.

Noted

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillors were asked to appoint a Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

PROPOSAL: That Councillor Peter Gane be appointed as Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F: 3, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

This Motion was lost.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Lucy McGirr be appointed as Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling

Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison

Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillors were asked to appoint a Vice-Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Belinda Walker be appointed as Vice-Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

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

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meetings of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 7 April 2026, and the Community Services Committee held on 14 April 2026 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

i) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 7 April 2026, be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

ii) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 14 April 2026, be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

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

6. 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 Community, Climate & Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: To adopt the Terms of Reference for the Community, Climate & Environment Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison

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

7. WORKING GROUPS 2026/27

Members were invited to consider whether the continuation or establishment of any Working Groups would be beneficial for the 2026/27 municipal year, and, if so, to agree memberships accordingly. Working Groups for 2025/26 were as follows:

Fairtrade: Cllrs Meade, McShane and Walker

Museum: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Chapman, McGirr and Walker

Trees: Cllr Walker

Parks and Open Spaces: Cllrs Keen, Renshaw and Walker

Allotments: Cllrs Keen, Meade and West (Substitute Cllr McGirr)

RESOLVED: That this Item be deferred to the next meeting to allow the Communities & Events Officer to email all Folkestone Town Councillors inviting them to join the above Working Groups should they wish to do so.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

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

8. ROOTING FOR WILDLIFE

The Communities and Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of applications submitted to Affinity Water by the Tile Kiln Lane and Park Farm Road Allotment Associations for funding to deliver biodiversity enhancement projects.

Cllr John Renshaw provided feedback in respect of the All Souls Church of England primary school application for funding to install raised flowerbeds and a garden on its site.

Noted

9. TREE PLANTING

Further to a request from members at the last Climate & Environment Committee meeting, the Communities & Events Officer updated members regarding suggested tree planting.

The Committee was asked to review the Tree Planting Schedule and consider whether it agreed to release the £15,000 Tree Planting Budget for 2026/27 to deliver the scheme.

RESOLVED:

- i) That all soft sites on the Tree Planting Schedule be planted subject to, where practicable, new trees being evenly distributed across all FTC Wards.**
- ii) To release the £15,000 Tree Planting Budget for 2026/27.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL GREEN GRANTS SCHEME – NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE

A £250,000 package of support for organisations to deliver sustainable and carbon reducing projects in the Folkestone & Hythe district has been agreed.

The F & HDC Green Grants third round of funding welcomes applications for categories of funding, and bids must be received by Friday 17 July. The categories are:

- Climate action micro grants – up to £2,000
- Rewilding, tree planting and wildflower meadow grants – up to £10,000
- Social and community grants – up to £15,000
- Premises grants – up to £20,000

The Committee was asked if it wished FTC to apply for funding, and if so to provide suggestions for potential projects.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Town Clerk write to Councillors Bain Smith and Lockwood to invite them to write a proposal in respect of plans to facilitate the Grace Hill site becoming energy efficient.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison

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

- ii) **That the Town Clerk and Communities & Events Officer follow up to establish if a project for required works at the Town Hall / Museum would be viable for an application within the Social & Community Grants and / or Premises Grants Categories.**

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

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

11. CIL CONSULTATION

Report CCE/26/418 outlines the feasibility of projects identified through the 2025 public consultation. Following further research and assessment, it provides additional detail on each proposal, including any requirements, constraints, and indicative costs, to support decisions on whether these projects should be progressed. The Committee was asked to receive the report and consider the recommendations set out within it.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Receive and note report CCE/26/418**
- 2) To progress the installation of a Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) at Naseby Avenue, subject to consultation with local residents and release funding from CIL reserves.**
- 3) To progress the installation of communication boards and play panels at Coniston Road, Naseby Avenue, Roman Way, Downs Road, Pine Way and Firs Lane Play Parks, and to release funding from CIL reserves.**
- 4) To progress the provision of cycle hoops and secure cycle storage at the top of Sandgate Road, outside Chaos Cards and at Cheriton Place (4 no.) subject to consultation with shop owners in the immediate vicinity, and to release funding from CIL reserves.**
- 5) That any projects within the Report which are not currently being progressed, be referred to appropriate Working Groups for further consideration.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

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

12. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CCE/26/419

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CCE/26/419, consider approving signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Stowting Parish Meeting for the loan of exhibition objects, and support grant bids from Kent Downs National Landscape and Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

The Committee asked that a vote of thanks be recorded in respect of the continuing work of the Museum team.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive and note report CCE/26/419
- 2) To resolve to sign a memorandum of understanding with Stowting Parish Meeting, regarding loaning objects from them for our upcoming exhibition
- 3) To agree to support the Kent Downs National Landscape's grant bid to promote the walking path between Folkestone and Dover
- 4) To agree to support Canterbury Archaeological Trust's grant bid for the continuation of the East Wear Bay project

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

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

13. ARMED FORCES DAY FOLKESTONE WITH AIR DISPLAYS 2026

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of developing arrangements.

The Chair asked that a vote of thanks be recorded in respect of the Town Clerk and Communities & Events Officers work in respect of the event.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 August 2026 at 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 20:10pm

Chair.....

Date.....