

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, 18 August 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Kieran Leigh, Jane Darling, Laura Davison, Peter Gane, Lucy McGirr, John Renshaw and Roger West.

Apologies: Councillors Bridget Chapman and Belinda Walker

In Attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk
Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

Absent: Councillors Charles Bain Smith and Nicola Keen

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bridget Chapman and Belinda Walker

Noted

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES

The Committee were asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Climate & Environment Committee held on 9 June 2026 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Climate & Environment Committee held on 9 June 2026, be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Laura Davison
Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

18. 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.

RESOLVED:

i) That Working Groups for the 2026/27 municipal year be as follows:

Fairtrade: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Meade, McShane and Walker.

Museum: Cllrs Chapman, McGirr, Renshaw and Walker.

Trees: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Darling, Davison and Walker.

Parks and Open Spaces: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Keen, McGirr, Renshaw and Walker.

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

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F: 8, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

ii) That a new Climate Change Working Group be established.

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F: 8, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

iii) That membership of the new Climate Change Working Group includes Councillors Akuffo-Kelly, Darling and Renshaw and the Communities & Events Officer email all Folkestone Town Councillors inviting them to join this Working Group should they wish to do so.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Voting: F: 8, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

The Town Clerk will follow up with the Folkestone & Hythe District Council Officer and the Cabinet Member responsible for Community Resilience Plans and Climate, Environment & Diversity respectively, to establish if training is available on the identification, delivery and management of existing and prospective associated projects, particularly in response to the rapidly

changing climate and the increasing need for local resilience and adaptation measures.

19. KCC PARISH BUS SHELTER GRANT

Members were invited to note the availability of the Parish Bus Stop Shelter Grant (PBSSG) for the 2026/27 financial year and invited to identify any bus shelters within their Wards that may require refurbishment or replacement, together with locations where new shelters would benefit residents and public transport users.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the Communities & Events Officer email all Folkestone Town Councillors inviting them to identify any bus shelters within their Wards that may require refurbishment or replacement, together with locations where new shelters would benefit residents and public transport users.**
- ii) **That the Communities & Events Officer follow up on suggestions received from Councillors to determine costs. If proposed refurbishments or replacements of bus shelters are established as viable and within budget, confirm, and progress works with an update to be brought to the next Community, Environment & Climate Committee meeting.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Voting: F: 8, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

20. WATER USAGE AT ALLOTMENT SITES REPORT CCE/26/422

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CCE/26/422.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the recommendations in Report CCE/26/422 refer and are applied to both the Tile Kiln Lane and Park Farm Road allotment sites.**

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F: 5, Ag: 2, Ab: 1

ii) That further to recommendation No. 6 being amended from 'i.e. a number of water butts' to instead, 'water butts' the following recommendations are approved:

- 1) Received and noted the contents of Report CCE/26/422 and the reduction in water costs of 8.57% compared to the corresponding period in 2025.
- 2) Continue to promote water conservation measures through tenant engagement, site inspections, newsletters and allotment noticeboards.
- 3) Undertake a further review of water consumption at the end of the 2026 growing season.
- 4) Continue to encourage all tenants to install and maintain water butts and rainwater harvesting systems wherever practicable.
- 5) Investigate any potential leaks or infrastructure issues that may contribute to excessive water consumption.
- 6) Introduce, from 1 January 2027, an annual Water Conservation Contribution of £30 for plot holders who do not actively collect and store rainwater on their individual plots through appropriate facilities using substantial rainwater harvesting systems, i.e. water butts.
- 7) Review the effectiveness of the proposed charge after the 2027 growing season and considers whether further measures are necessary.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F: 6, Ag: 2, Ab: 0

21. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CCE/26/423

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CCE/26/423 with the Chair requesting that a note of thanks for the Folkestone Museum staff be recorded.

Noted

22. YOUTH PROJECTS

Members were asked to provide an update on the following resolution
(Community Services Meeting -14 April 2026) -

RESOLVED (Min 1370):

i.v That Councillors explore the possibility of a competition inviting local schools to develop ideas to regenerate the high street with proposals to be reported back to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That this Item be deferred to the next Community, Climate & Environment Committee meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison
Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane
Voting: F: 8, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

23. BUDGET 2027/28 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

Members were asked to begin considering potential growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for community projects and initiatives for inclusion in the 2027/28 budget.

The Town Clerk explained the procedure and advised that suggested Growth Items must be submitted by Councillors to the Finance Officer on the associated form by 1st October, will be reviewed for submission to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration, at the next Community, Climate & Environment Committee.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13 October 2026 at 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Chair.....

Date.....