

## FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall.

**Present:** Councillors Ann Berry, Abena Akuffo-Kelly (arrived at 6.34pm), Danny Brook, Ray Field, David Horton, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Belinda Walker and Richard Wallace (arrived at 6.44pm).

**Absent:** Cllr Tim Prater (apologies were received after the meeting)

**In attendance:** Jennifer Childs, Town Clerk  
Georgina Wilson, Executive Assistant

One member of the public was in attendance.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be Chairman for the Committee for the municipal year of 2021/22 and that Councillor Belinda Walker Chair this meeting until Councillor Akuffo-Kelly arrives.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Connor McConville

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

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Belinda Walker be Vice Chairman for the Committee for the municipal year of 2021/22.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:1

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

### 5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference were noted. It was suggested that as this was the Climate and Environment Committee, the Climate items on the terms of reference should be at the top.

Councillor Akuffo-Kelly arrived at this juncture.

### 6. WORKING GROUPS 2021/22

The Committee considered the need for Working Groups.

Councillor Richard Wallace arrived at this juncture.

**RESOLVED: To create working groups for the following Parks, Fairtrade, Allotments, Flowers, Trees and Electric Charging Points.**

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

The Town Clerk will email all Councillors for nominations and arrange for the working groups to meet via zoom.

The Town Clerk will contact the District Council to ask about a Town Councillor being invited to be a representative on the Place Plan.

**7. COMMUNITIES AND EVENTS OFFICER REPORT CS/21/291**

The Committee noted the report and discussed the tree budget, it was felt it would be fairer to split the budget equally between the wards to ensure an even spread of trees being planted. All suggestions for new planting sites would be considered by the Tree Champion and Tree Wardens and information brought back to the next Committee.

The Town Clerk confirmed that public tree planting sites had been received and would be considered with all other suggestions that had been received.

**RESOLVED: To receive and note Report CE/21/291 and accept the recommendation to vire £1,000 from the Local Projects budget to the Fairtrade budget code to facilitate support of the Fairtrade Action Plan.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 9, Ag:0, Ab:0

**8. COMMUNITIES AND GRANTS OFFICER PARK REPORT CS/21/292**

Cllr McConville felt a Business Plan was needed to show what is needed and where, not all of the dowry should be spent immediately on improving the parks only maintaining them. The Town Clerk explained that the dowry was to bring the parks up to a safe level of play, the suggestions in the report were to make them safe and meet the ROSPA recommendations and to replace missing or damaged equipment.

Further discussions on this would take place at the Parks Working Group which would be arranged as quickly as possible.

**RESOLVED: To received and note the report and to defer this item to discuss further at the Parks Working Group.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor David Horton  
Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

There were discussions around the inspections of the parks, the Town Clerk reported that the Communities and Grants Officer would be trained to assist in carrying out the inspections although due to Covid19 the training had been delayed, members advised that they would like to also undertake this training in the future. Liability was then discussed, the Town Clerk advised that using our grounds maintenance contractor to undertake the weekly inspections afforded Council additional protection and had the added benefit due to being specialists repairs or isolate of equipment could be carried out in a timely manner.

#### **9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered the Action Plan and the Town Clerk informed the Committee that within the Procurement Policy it states that the Council should use services to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council wherever possible.

Councillor Ray Field requested 3.3 be amended to 28 new trees. Point 4 to include the art piece of the wire fish for the collection of single use plastic bottles. The Town Clerk updated the Committee on this project, which will be a joint project between the District and Town Councils, a proposal will be brought forward at a future Committee.

Councillor Connor McConville commented that at point 2, the electric minibus that the Town Clerk got funding for from KCC should be added in.

Discussions then took place on the Town Council's current carbon footprint of 26.85 tonnes, this is relatively low for a Town Council due to the renovations that were carried out on the Town Hall when it was purchased by the Town Council. Members asked that a plan be developed to help see an annual reduction in the region of 10%.

**RESOLVED: To approve the Action Plan with the above amendments.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville  
Seconded: Councillor Danny Brook  
Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

#### **10. CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION POLICY**

Councillor Jackie Meade felt that the Town Council should include in the procurement policy something on offsetting only when no other option was available.

There were discussions on the possibility of a Land Train to help reduce emissions if less cars are travelling around the town, members felt that any land train should have an electric engine.

The Carbon Footprint Reduction Policy was noted.

**11. UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT**

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the unauthorised encampment at Firs Lane, Town and District Officers attended the site and 28 days grace has been given for the encampment to move before any legal action will be taken.

**12. BUDGET 2022/23 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS**

Councillor Ray Field felt that a budget should be made for the Harbour Line, it is coming under the ownership of the District Council and provision should be made to support them in this project. Consideration would be given to how much should be allocated for this project and agreed at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: To increase the Tree Budget by £6,000 to a total of £21,000.**

Proposed: Councillor Danny Brook  
Seconded: Councillor David Horton  
Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the Parks, Gardens and Flowerbeds budget should be increased as this is overspent every year.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 6.30pm**

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....