

## FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

**Present:** Councillors Ann Berry, Ray Field, David Horton, Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Tim Prater, Belinda Walker (Chair) and Richard Wallace.

**Absent:** Councillor Danny Brook

**In attendance:** Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer  
Liz Timmins - Communities & Grants Officer

### 32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly were received and approved.

### 33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Horton declared a personal interest in Item 40.

### 34. MINUTES

The Committee were asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and to authorise the Chairman of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

### 35. FAIRTRADE ACCREDITATION AND FORTNIGHT

Councillor Jackie Meade (Fairtrade Champion) and the Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee regarding ongoing tasks to achieve the outstanding two goals to attain Fairtrade Status for Folkestone Town Council. Details were given of the actions required in 2022 to re-engage with local businesses and residents to sustain momentum including, collating and analysing survey responses from workplaces, faith groups, educational establishments and other community organisations and attracting further media coverage and popular support for the campaign.

### 36. TREE PLANTING 2021/22 AND PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee on the current draft planting schedule for the 2022/23 scheme.

Members have organised a 'tree walk' for Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February to identify potential planting sites throughout Folkestone.

A request was made that future Tree Working Group meetings be organised as hybrid meetings to accommodate / support all Members with the option of attending in person or via Microsoft Teams depending on their preferences and other commitments.

**37. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE - TREE CANOPY FOR THE REIGN**

The Committee were briefed by the Communities & Events Officer on the developing plans and potential arrangements for the Queens Platinum Jubilee, working in partnership with the Woodland Trust and local communities, schools, churches, youth groups etc to plant commemoration trees.

Members indicated that St Peters Primary School might be able to dedicate some space in their community garden for tree planting.

Suggestions were put forward requesting that the C & E Officer to pursue the possibility of FTC coordinating / publicising a 'Best Garden / Balcony / Hanging Basket competition as part of its events acknowledging and celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee with judging to be conducted by the Town Mayor.

**38. FLOWER & SHRUB BED MAINTENANCE 2022 / 23**

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee on proposals for maintenance from 2021/22 for the flower and shrub beds and scheduled works for 2022/23 which includes a programme for replanting the shrub beds that are past their best. Members considered the release of £34,635.71 from the 2022/23 Parks, Garden & Recs budget.

**RESOLVED: To release £34,635.71 to undertake the required works.**

Proposed: Councillor Richard Wallace

Seconded: Councillor Ann Berry

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

**39. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The Committee noted the additional financial information on the Climate Action Plan and also made a request that the Town Clerk provide an update to all Councillors as to the current status with the acquisition of the minibus.

**40. ALLOTMENTS**

The Communities & Events Officer briefed the Committee on the proposed changes to the Allotment rules including the following amendment:

*3.24 Pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers can be helpful when clearing and cultivating an allotment, however they can also be hazardous and*

*have environmental implications. Council recommends trying to minimise the use of pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers, or reduce the levels of use over time. If wishing to use any of the above, tenants must complete an Allotment Chemical Use Permission Request Form. On receipt of the form Council will consider giving permission subject to tenants:*

*a) putting up a notice on the plot detailing exactly what product is being used to advise tenants with Children or Pets to take all reasonable care and to ensure that other plots, grass roads and paths, hedges and trees are not adversely affected, and make good or replant as necessary should any damage occur.*

*b) selecting and use pesticides, whether for spraying, seed dressing or for any other purpose whatsoever, so that there is minimal risk to members of the public, birds and other wildlife, with the exception of vermin or pests.*

*c) following the instructions for use carefully and complying at all times with current pesticide regulations and the law which requires only approved pesticides to be used.*

and updated the Committee on the reports of rough sleepers on FTC allotment sites.

Members suggested that signposting information for the homeless / rough sleepers should be displayed at Folkestone Town Council allotment sites including details of local homeless charities and support centres such as Porchlight.

Members requested that the C & E Officer arrange a meeting with the Allotment Manager, Allotment Champion(s), Community Support Officers, Allotment Association Chairs, and herself to further consider ways to manage the ongoing situation whilst supporting this 'at risk' section of our community and the wellbeing of allotment holders.

After some debate it was

**RESOLVED: That Allotment Rules V12 together with the amendments are approved and adopted.**

Proposed: Councillor Connor McConville

Seconded: Councillor Tim Prater

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

#### **41. PLAY PARKS REPORT CE/22/303**

The Communities & Grants Officer briefed the committee in respect of developments at FTC managed Play Parks including an assurance that any medium or high-risk issues identified are addressed immediately. Members received and noted Report CE/22/303 with a subsequent request that when play equipment is removed from any site, a notice is displayed ASAP indicating the reasons why and if / when it will be replaced.

**42. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....

DRAFT