



Seaford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Climate Change Sub-Committee on Thursday, 18th April 2024

Held at the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillors C Bristow (Chair), R Buchanan (Vice Chair), L Boorman, R Clay, R Honeyman (substituted for O Matthews), J Meek, I Taylor and L Wallraven.

Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets, Projects & Services

Sharan Brydon, Assets & Projects Manager

Becky Terry, HR & Governance Assistant

There were no members of the public in attendance.

CC12/04/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Matthews.

CC13/04/23 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

CC14/04/23 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

CC15/04/23 Climate Change Update Report – 2023 -2024 Year End Summary & 2024 – 2025 Forward Plan

The Sub-Committee considered report 205/23 providing a year end summary of the climate change activities of the Town Council during the 2023 – 2024 municipal year, and details of the process for discussing the 2024 – 2024 forward plan of business of the Sub-Committee.

The Head of Assets, Projects and Services provided an overview of the report and the format for considering the information within. Officers confirmed that the Climate Change Delivery Plan will be reviewed and updated by the Sub-Committee at its meeting in July 2024, aligning this with the Town Council's Strategic Plan and Climate Emergency Policy. Going through the delivery plan in the meeting.

Members and Officers discussed the Climate Emergency Policy live date of 30th June, the provision of public toilets within Crouch Gardens, retitling the policy document the 'Climate Action Plan' to be in line with national terminology for councils which have declared a Climate Emergency, the work required to enable the Town Council to assess environmental implications within its reports, the Town Council's intention to join in with Lewes District Council's community engagement following its initial consultation on its Climate & Nature Strategy, initial discussions with Lewes District Council about electric vehicle charging points on Town Council land, discussions being held to review cattle or pony grazing on Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve to improve the quality of the chalk scrubland and the challenges faced to introduce this, officer capacity to accommodate climate change work and the possibility of outsourcing work to outside organisations/groups, the progress of work to enter into agreements with outside groups on the management of Town Council green spaces (such as Blatchington Green and Princess Drive open space), the possibility of a management strategy / guiding principles for green and open spaces to maximise the use of the space from a climate change perspective, the previous findings of the Town Council's Assets Working Group and potential for using the group again to assess the Town Council's land assets, progress of the lease negotiations with the tenant farmer at South Hill Farm and the sub-committee's input into this through Full Council and, the multi-agency work of Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Management Committee and its task & finish groups and how this assists the Town Council with its decision-making.

CC15.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CC15.2 It was **PROPOSED** to **AGREE** that an outline of a management strategy for the green spaces come to the July Climate Change Sub-Committee - focussed on the climate actions within that strategy and enabling draw down from this into the Climate Action Plan; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

CC16/04/23 Lewes District Council's Climate & Nature Strategy Refresh Consultation

The Sub-Committee considered report 203/23 regarding Lewes District Council's consultation on its Climate & Nature Strategy.

The Chair took the Sub-Committee through the consultation response form, inviting member's comments on the individual points that would allow for collating the final response to the consultation.

Once finalised, the Town Council's final response will be uploaded to the [Town Council's consultation responses webpage](#).

It was **RESOLVED** to **DELEGATE POWER** to the Head of Assets, Projects & Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, to agree a final response based upon the comments raised at the meeting.

CC17/04/23 Reports on Swifts in Seaford

The Sub-Committee considered report 202/23 presenting a report from local group Save Seaford's Swifts, requesting that the Town Council consider how it can support the population of swifts and other urban birds in Seaford.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair and officers for the report. The Vice Chair introduced the report to the Sub-Committee.

Members discussed recent building developments in town and the use of swift blocks, and the arrangements with outside bodies and the promotion of their work.

CC17.1 It was **PROPOSED** to **AGREE** to recommend the recommendations contained within the report to the appropriate committees and Full Council as suggested within the report*.

CC17.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Save Seaford's Swifts becomes a formal Outside Body of the Town Council.

* The recommendations within the report are copied below for ease:

1. To actively promote and encourage the installation of Universal Nesting Sites by local residents by sharing appropriate information on the STC website and social media platforms, and promote the work of Save Seaford's Swifts. Consider actively promoting the annual Swift Awareness Week which runs each summer.
2. To investigate opportunities for fitting swift boxes and boxes suitable for other urban dwelling bird species on Seaford Town Council's buildings. This would be undertaken via a desk-based survey of its building assets and site visits which Save Seaford's Swifts could attend for advice. Swift bricks and swift boxes should be installed in accordance with British Standard BS 42021. This would go forward as a recommendation to the Community Services Committee.
3. To use its voice in recommending to the Planning & Highways Committee to undertake to consider whether a suggestion to install measures to support the conservation of swifts and other urban bird species is appropriate when they assess Planning Applications and if so to return a recommendation as part of the Town Council's response to the Planning Authority (this may invoke a revision to the Town Council Planning & Highways Policy).
4. To write to Lewes District Council as the local Planning Authority to inform them of the situation regarding swifts and other urban birds in Seaford and lobby them to

take action to include specific measures within their Planning requirements to ensure that the provision of swift bricks and or swift boxes and provisions for other urban birds are included in appropriate developments. Also to ask Lewes District Council to include positive measures with the Lewes District Local Plan which is currently being drawn up to provide strong and explicit requirements for creation of new swift nesting sites in the District's urban areas.

5. To give consideration to the inclusion of provisions for swift boxes and swift bricks and other Universal Nesting Sites in the Town Council's input to the next iteration of the Seaford Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Councillor C Bristow

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Chair of the Climate Change Sub-Committee