

Minutes of the meeting of the **Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 26th November 2025** at **5.30pm**

Councillors:

Present: Cllrs. D Adelson, E Beck, E O’Nolan, D Pegg and C Walsh. Non-Council members Rob Berry, Oscar Brennecke-Dunn, Jan Pulsford, Jane Healey and Mel Menhams.

Apologies: Cllr. M Wilks.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr G E Diaper), Cllrs. N Phipps and R Sanders, and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were approved from Cllr. M Wilks.

2. Declarations of Member Interests.

No members made any declarations of interests in relation to items on the agenda.

3. Requests for dispensations.

There were no requests for a dispensation in relation to items on the agenda.

4. Public Question Time

The member of the public present did not wish to address the Committee at this time.

5. To agree and approve the minutes of the meeting held 29th October 2025.

The minutes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee meeting held 29th October 2025 were approved as a true record.

6. To consider a planting proposal for the introduction of cork oak saplings on the Town Council estate.

Mr Paul Martin from the Bee Café CIC addressed the Committee in regard of his proposal to plant cork oak saplings on the Town Council estate. As requested by

the Committee at the October meeting, Mr Martin and the Council's Estates Officer had produced a planting proposal which detailed that the cork oaks be planted in the southern part of the Kingston Field, adjacent to existing cherry trees but not on top of the existing foul sewer.

The Committee agreed that should a Working Party comprising of all members of the Committee be able to agree a suitable position for planting following a site visit, that planting in line with the plans provided by Mr Martin be approved.

The Chair offered to organise the site visit.

Julian Kingston-Smith to be advised of the proposed planting should an agreement be reached.

7. To consider a paper and presentation made to the Town Council by a member of the public further to concerns about the spread of 'Tree of Heaven' in Woodbridge.

The Committee noted the paper tabled at the Town Council meeting further to concerns about the spread of 'Tree of Heaven' in Woodbridge.

The Committee agreed that in the first instance an article for publication be produced to seek support from local residents for the creation of a community action group to work toward the identification and removal of Tree of Heaven in Woodbridge.

The Chair and Town Clerk would draft the article and seek to meet with the member of public who raised the issue at Town Council.

8. To note the decisions of the Town Council in regard of the projects listed below and consider how to proceed:

a – Fen Meadow tiny forest

The Committee noted that Council had approved the funding for this project and that Cllrs. and Officers are now working toward the implementation of the project as provided to Council. The Chair reported on a meeting with the Council's approved supplier for the tiny forest project, also attended by Cllr O. Nolan and the Estates Officer.

b – Fen Meadow play area

The Committee noted the decisions of the Council not to approve the recommendation of the Amenities Committee and their approved supplier, and to instead ask this Committee to work with Amenities to propose ideas for a 'sustainable playground'.

The Committee agreed it would support the development of the site using natural products including features such as a teepee, wooden learning circles and wooden play equipment with bark below.

c – Elmhurst Park wildflower area

The Town Clerk and Chair were asked to seek quotations from Botanica for the plug planting of wildflowers in Elmhurst Park and present these at the December meeting of the Council.

9. To consider items for inclusion in the CEE submission to local free papers.

Cllr. Wilks was asked to consider the following for inclusion in his article:

- Tree of Heaven community action group.
- Tiny forest planting on Fen Meadow.

10. To consider the Suffolk Wildlife Trust activity report and agree the final events to be funded by the Council.

The Committee noted the report from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and thanked that organisation for their work over the years organising the WTC funded 'Summer Wildlife events'.

The Committee agreed that the remaining funds, £840, be used to help cover the costs for Farlingaye High School to train a Forest School Leader.

11. To consider if the Committee wishes to respond to central government consultations.

The Committee agreed that Cllr. Adelson was to respond on the Committee's behalf to the consultation on strengthening penalties for water company offences.

It was agreed that Cllr. Adelson may respond to the consultation on the review of Water Efficiency Standards in the Building Regulations 2010, if his time allows.

12. To consider the cost of an application to Anglian Water for a water supply for Fen Meadow.

The Town Clerk advised on the estimate he had received from Anglian Water for the installation of a new water main for Fen Meadow (£6,600).

The Committee agreed not to proceed further with Anglian Water, instead that the Town Clerk and Chair should consider a borehole as a means for providing water for future planting schemes in the area.

13. Closure

The meeting was closed at 6.53pm

Councillor Beck
Chair