

Minutes of the meeting of the **Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 25th March 2026** at **7pm**

Councillors:

Present: Cllrs. D Adelson, E Beck, E O’Nolan, and M Wilks. Non-Council members Jan Pulsford and Jane Healey.

Apologies: Cllrs. D. Pegg and C Walsh. Oscar Brennecke-Dunn and Rob Berry.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr G E Diaper), Cllrs. N Phipps and R Sanders, and no members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were approved for Cllrs. D Pegg and Walsh, and Non-Council members Oscar Brennecke-Dunn and Rob Berry.

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

There were no members of the public present.

5. To agree and approve the minutes of the meeting held 25th February 2026.

The minutes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee meeting held 25th February 2026 were approved as a true record.

6. To note the funding provided to the Committee as part of the 2026/27 budget and Earmarked reserves and consider the Biodiversity Action Plan and the spending requirements for the forthcoming financial year.

The Committee noted that for the financial year 2026/27, as well as the £10,000 Committee budget, the Council has allocated £28,000 to the Estate Resilience budget which is spent via recommendations from this Committee to Full Council.

The Committee reviewed the Green Infrastructure Attributes plan produced originally by the Estates Manager in late 2024. The following points were noted in regard of work undertaken against the plan, and as updates moving forward:

Fen Meadow:

- Council gardeners to be instructed to mow around the informal path which has developed on the top Fen.
- The proposed 'Creative Woodland' play area would provide an opportunity to increase biodiversity.
- To support the colony of White Letter Hair Streak butterflies, Siberian Elm trees should be planted.
- Council gardeners to ensure that main meadow is correctly mown to encourage growth of the Southern Marsh orchid.
- The grading of Fen Meadow but updated to 'Unfavourably but improving'.

Broomheath:

- The enclosure fencing is helping reduce soil erosion on the main slope and the extended area on the eastern side will ensure an almost full restoration of gorse and broom in time.
- The Cork Oak circle at the top of heath will be a striking feature in years to come.
- Proposal to install some balance equipment/ resistance free exercise equipment.

Kington Field:

- Replacement planting required on the new hedge to replace lost plants during the first year.
- A proposal to plant either a new hedge or create a long herbaceous border between the play area fence and footpath.
- A proposal to extend the margin out to two meters along the hedge on the far side of the field.

Elmhurst Park:

- The work being undertaken by the Council's gardening team is making a huge difference to the park. The herbaceous, rose and tree planting and creation of a dead hedge is increasing biodiversity significantly.
- A proposal to consider the installation of planters in Elmhurst Walk. Some concern about planning application to build houses on the co-op site opposite.

- Concern about dog fouling – proposal to install signage warning that unless the behaviour of dog owners improves (dog mess cleaned up) the Council will consider the banning of dogs from the park.

Quaker Burial Ground

- Resident action helping to clear the space and develop a local composting scheme.

Allotments

- Flooding reduced thanks to the action of CCllr Leach; WTC Gardeners reminded that the stream should always be checked following heavy rainfall, especially in the summer.
- Request for the Otley College students to conduct soil test sampling to see if the soil is contaminated due to the proximity to the railway.

The Committee also agreed that the assets being considered as part of LGR should be added to this document, and that the Town Clerk should seek quotations from local companies who may be able to undertake the jet cleaning of storm water drains in Woodbridge.

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

Cllr. Wilks was asked to consider including the following in any forthcoming press release:

- Non-Council member vacancies
- Miyawaki Forest update
- Tree warden vacancy
- Problems with dog fouling in Elmhurst Park

9. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm

Councillor Beck
Chair