

## To Members of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee

Cllr. David Adelson  
Cllr. Doreen Pegg

Cllr. Ellie Beck  
Cllr. Nigel Phipps

Cllr. Eamonn O’Nolan  
Cllr. Martin Wilks

You are hereby summoned to **attend the meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** to be held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 1 July 2026 at 5.30pm**



Belinda Lloyd  
Deputy Town Clerk  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### Public Attendance

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend. The public will be invited to give their views/question the Town Council on issues on the agenda or raise issues for consideration of inclusion at future meetings. This item will be limited to fifteen minutes duration.

The Town Council, members of the public and press may record/ film or broadcast this meeting when the press and public are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends this meeting is advised that the Town Council cannot control 3rd party recording.

### Woodbridge Town Council vision statement

**The Council will strive to ensure Woodbridge is a safe, harmonious, and thriving town where all residents and the wider community feel welcome.**

**We will work to make Woodbridge a place where all generations can participate in a vibrant, inclusive society that is environmentally resilient.**

### Agenda

#### 1. Apologies



#### WOODBRIIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Mr G E Diaper

Shire Hall, Market Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4LP

Telephone: 01394 383599 | Email: [townclerk@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk) | Website: [woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk](http://woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk)

**2. Declarations of Member Interests.**

To receive any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

**3. Requests for dispensations.**

To consider requests for dispensations from Members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, other registerable or non-registerable interest.

**4. Public question time**

For the public to ask questions of the Council or raise issues for consideration at a future meeting of the Council. Fifteen minutes maximum – three minutes per person.

**5. To agree and approve the [minutes](#) of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.**

**6. To appoint Non-Council Members to the Committee.**

**7. To note the meeting schedule agreed for the rest of the Civic Year 2026/27.**

**8. To receive advice from Jonathan Edwards regarding the management of the Broom Heath gorse.**

**9. To discuss ideas on how to best utilise the funds available in the Estate Resilience budget.**

**10. To consider if the committee would like to respond to the consultation regarding the proposed solar farm and battery storage system in Mid-Suffolk.**

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

**12. Closure.**

## **Item 6**

### **To appoint Non-Council Members to the Committee.**

The Town Council's Terms of Reference state that 'The Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee will additionally include up to six co-opted non-Councillor committee members'.

Section 102 (3) of the Local Government Act (1972) provides that a local council can appoint persons who are not its members to committees and sub-committees:

*'other than a committee for regulating and controlling the finance of the local authority or of their area, may include persons who are not members of the appointing authority or authorities or, in the case of a sub-committee, the authority or authorities of whom they are a sub-committee'*

### **Behaviour at meetings**

Non-Council members are required to comply with the Council's Standing Orders and are subject the Council's Code of Conduct.

### **Voting rights**

By virtue of s.13(1) and (7) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act'), non-councillor members of committees and sub-committees do not have voting rights.

However, regulation 3 of The Parish and Community Councils (Committees) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990/2476) confirms that non-councillor members of committees and subcommittees have voting rights in respect of:

- the management of land owned or occupied by the council;
  - the functions of the council as a harbour authority (as defined in s. 57(1) of the Harbours Act 1964);
  - any function under s. 144 of the 1972 Act relating to the promotion of tourism;
- and
- any function under s. 145 of the 1972 Act relating to the management of a festival.

The term "management" does not include making decisions about the total amount of money which may be spent by the council in a financial year in respect of land or a festival.

The Council has taken the position that Non-Council members may vote on items which do not have a financial impact upon the Council and it's budget, and therefore cannot vote on

items which do require a financial decision to be made. It is proposed that this position is retained.

### **Non-Council appointments**

At the end of the last Civic Term, the following individuals comprised the list of appointed Non-Council Members:

Rob Berry

Jane Healey

Jan Pulsford

Oscar Brennecke-Dunn

The remaining Non-Council members from last year have been asked to indicate by return to the Deputy Town Clerk if they wish to be considered for appointment to the Committee – responses will be uploaded in due course.

Oscar Brennecke-Dunn was appointed at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.

Appointment as a Non-Council member is for the duration of the current Civic Term (until May 2028); Non-Council members may resign at any time by emailing the Town Clerk. The elected members can vote to remove a Non-Council member at any time.

**The elected members of the Committee are required to vote on the appointment of Non-Council members to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.**

**Item 7**

**To note the meeting schedule agreed for the rest of the Civic Year 2026/27.**

**Woodbridge Town Council – Meeting schedule 2026/27**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July - 5.30pm

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - 5.30pm

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October - 5.30pm

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November - 5.30pm

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - 5.30pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January - 5.30pm

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - 5.30pm

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - 5.30pm

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April - 5.30pm

**Members are asked to note the meeting schedule agreed for the rest of the Civic Year 2026/27.**

## **Item 8**

### **To receive advice from Jonathan Edwards regarding the management of the Broom Heath gorse.**

The following email was received from Johnathan Edwards.

Prior to 2016 the southern two thirds of Broomheath public space were covered in high confluent gorse. Most of the gorse was destroyed in a fire leaving a large bare area. Over the last five years broom and gorse have been encouraged to regrow and the current state of the heath seems very healthy and much better than before - on 4 counts:

1. The mix of open ground and vegetation allows people to walk and see through.
2. The mixed ecosystem appears to be ideal for nightingales, with three territories now on the heath and a fourth in the railway cutting - likely close to maximal. (The previous confluent gorse interior was relatively sterile.)
3. The fire risk is significantly less with open ground adjacent to the road.
4. Broom has been re-established from local seed, having been previously lost with mowing of the heath not covered by gorse and with rabbit grazing.

I understand that it is the natural behaviour of gorse to engulf other vegetation and then ignite, with regrowth from fire-resistant roots (pyrophilia). My suggestion is that we now have an optimum level of gorse cover and that it would be best to manage it with autumn cutting back. This year I suggest two actions:

1. The scattered gorse bushes by the track from the road would benefit from reducing by about 50%, chiefly in height, to maintain the open aspect.
2. The near confluent gorse mixed with broom on the south side would benefit from gorse height reduction (to ~2metres max) and maintenance of some separation by tracks to reduce fire risk, maintain an invertebrate-rich environment, allow the relatively short-lived broom to re-seed and allow access for further management. As the gorse has extended, I have tried to keep some inner space free over the last few years, but I think more formal thinning out would now be a good idea.

The second area of gorse and broom may not need attention now but the gorse may benefit from some reduction soon.

I would be very happy to manage the gorse myself, but I would want to ensure that any actions had been fully discussed if so.

Jonathan Edwards  
Pilot's Way,  
Broomheath  
IP12 4DL

### **To receive advice from Jonathan Edwards regarding the management of the Broom Heath gorse and agree appropriate next steps.**

**Item 9**

**To discuss ideas on how to best utilise the funds available in the Estates Resilience budget.**

- 1. The committee is asked to consider the most significant climate change risks facing the residents of Woodbridge, including the potential future impacts and how these may affect residents' day-to-day lives.**
- 2. The committee is also asked to identify how these risks can be reduced through targeted improvements and investment using the Estate Resilience Budget.**

The Estates Resilience budget is split across two funds:

1 - £5,000 is provided in the Council's 'Town Support' expenditure budget – of that, £1,549.95 has been utilised to date.

26/06/2026		Woodbridge Town Council Current Year				Page 1	
15:49		Nominal Ledger Report by ACCOUNT				User :G.DIAPER	
<b>A/c Code</b>	4135	Projects			<b>Annual Budget</b>	5,000	
<b>Centre</b>	140	Other Amenity Areas			<b>Committed</b>	0	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Transaction Detail</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>	
					<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
1	01/04/2026	598	Journal	EP Wildflowers (FLORA01)		2,529.84	
1	02/04/2026	FLORA01	Purchase Ledger	EP Supply/Deliver Wildflowers	2,503.84		
1	13/04/2026	PGHO01	Purchase Ledger	Irrigation Equipment	474.60		
1	14/04/2026	ECOW01	Purchase Ledger	Solar Panel Off Grid Kits	174.17		
1	24/04/2026	BARU01	Purchase Ledger	KF Irrigation/Bowser Irr Prjct	266.63		
1	27/04/2026	NELS01	Purchase Ledger	KF Irrigation Supplies	23.96		
2	01/05/2026	ERNE01	Purchase Ledger	Mobile Water Bowser/Fitments	565.76		
2	20/05/2026	ECOW01	Purchase Ledger	Irrigation Prjct Battery Charg	70.83		
		<b>Account Projects</b>			<b>Account Totals</b>	<b>4,079.79</b>	<b>2,529.84</b>
		<b>Centre Other Amenity Areas</b>			<b>Net Balance Month 4</b>	<b>1,549.95</b>	

2 - £23,000 is providing via EMR 411.

<b>Most significant risks of climate change.</b>	<b>How are these impacting residents or potentially impacting residents.</b>	<b>Possible interventions /investments using the Estate resilience budget.</b>	<b>Desired outcomes</b>	<b>Risk rating</b> Red – High risk Yellow – Medium risk Green – Minimal risk

**Members are asked to discuss ideas on how to best utilise the funds available in the Estate Resilience budget and record this using the provided table.**

## **Item 10**

**To consider if the committee would like to respond to the consultation regarding the proposed solar farm and battery storage system in Mid-Suffolk.**

# **County council urges communities to help shape 2,200-acre solar farm project**

Suffolk County Council is encouraging residents, businesses and parish councils to take part in [EcoPower Suffolk's public consultation for its proposed solar farm and battery energy storage project](#).

This statutory consultation launches today (Monday 22 June 2026) and closes on Sunday 16 August 2026.

Following a first consultation held last year, changes were made to the project after feedback from residents, businesses and parish councils was taken into account.

The proposed development is for a 250-megawatt solar farm and battery energy storage system, which will be spread out over 2,200 acres across five areas in Mid Suffolk:

- south and east of Stuston
- north and east of Eye
- north of Gislingham
- north of Occold
- between Thrandeston and Mellis

**Councillor Tristan Gale, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service, said:**

"The local community helped shape EcoPower's proposals once before, and they can do so again. The feedback received during last year's consultation led to changes, demonstrating the value of community engagement.

"I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to review the latest plans and share their views – this is our last opportunity before EcoPower Suffolk submits its application to the Planning Inspectorate.

"There will remain issues that require greater clarity and scrutiny, and it is important that anyone affected has their say while there is still time to influence the plans.

"Although I look forward to examining the revised proposals, I remain deeply concerned about the potential impact on high-quality agricultural land, our highway network, local amenities, the landscape and the wellbeing of local communities."

County council officers will now scrutinise the proposals in detail and prepare a report with recommendations for cabinet members. The council's formal response to the consultation will then be considered and agreed at the cabinet meeting on 14 July 2026.

EcoPower Suffolk will hold in-person events in Gislingham, Occold and Eye, alongside three online webinars, giving residents multiple opportunities to learn more about the proposals and share their views.

Further details about EcoPower Suffolk's proposals, consultation events and how to submit comments before the 16 August 2026 deadline can be found on its website [www.ecopowersuffolk.com](http://www.ecopowersuffolk.com)

**Members are asked to consider if the committee would like to respond to the consultation regarding the proposed solar farm and battery storage system in Mid-Suffolk.**