Woodbridge TOWN COUNCIL

To Members of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee

Cllr. David Adelson
Cllr. Ellie Beck
Cllr. Eamonn O'Nolan
Cllr. Doreen Pegg
Cllr. Nigel Phipps
Cllr. Martin Wilks

and Non-Council Members of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee

Jo Edwards
Rob Berry
Jane Healey
Oscar Brennecke-Dunn

You are hereby summoned to **attend the meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** to be held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 5.30pm**

Greg Diaper
Town Clerk
30th October 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.

WOODBRIDGE 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 | Website: woodbridge-suffolk.gov.uk

Agenda

1. **Apologies**

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 7th October 2026.**

6. **To note the planting schedule for the Fen Meadow Miyawaki Forest and consider volunteering options for Council and Non-Council members, and members of the public.**

7. **To receive a verbal update on grant funding applications for solar panels on the Longshed.**

8. **To consider project funding requests for consideration by the Finance Committee as part of the preparation of the 2027/28 Town Council budget.**

9. **To discuss topics for the Climate Ecological Emergency Committee Free Ad article.**

10. **Closure.**

Item 6

To note the planting schedule for the Fen Meadow Miyawaki Forest and consider volunteering options for Council and Non-Council members, and members of the public.

The Estates Team have laid carboard and weed suppressing matting on the fenced area that will become the Miyawaki Forest – see some photos of that work below:





The planting area can be seen on the new Google Earth satellite photography:



The plan is for the area to be planted during the week commencing November 23rd – Botanica still hold some of the plants that we purchases last year, whilst Jess has some in storage in the Melon Pit and Kitchen Garden.

In relation to volunteering opportunities, the current plan is for students from Suffolk Rural to assist with the planting, but any offer of help would be greatly appreciated.

Members are asked to note the planting schedule for the Fen Meadow Miyawaki Forest and consider volunteering options for Council and Non-Council members, and members of the public.

Item 8

To consider project funding requests for consideration by the Finance Committee as part of the preparation of the 2027/28 Town Council budget.

The Committee noted at it's October meeting the position of the budgets for which it is has direct control or are anticipated to recommend spends to Council from – an update correct to the time of writing (02.11.26), is provided below:

Budget	Annual Budget	Already spent	Committed	Balance
Committee (5250)	£10,000	£2970.99	£1000 (Tree Giveaway)	£6029.01
Estate Resilience (EMR 411)	£23,000			£23,000.00
Projects (4135/140) other Amenity areas	£5000	£1549.95		£3450.05

The Finance Committee are now preparing the budget for the 2027/28 financial year, and whilst the £10,000 in year budget (5250) remains provided, there were questions at the most recent meeting in relation to project specific funding provided further to ideas or plans from this Committee, none of which have been forthcoming to this point.

Members will recall that last year, it was only at the item before the agreement of the precept request that the Council agreed to create the 'Estate Resilience' reserve:

16. To consider the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committees 'Biodiversity Action Plan'.

Cllr. Beck spoke to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committees Biodiversity Action Plan, and the request for additional funding to be allocated in the 2026/27 budget on the understanding that the Council had signed off on a three-year project.

The Council agreed that rather than make changes to the budget at this stage and impact on the proposed precept request to be considered at the following item, an Earmarked Reserve for 'Estate Resilience' (to match the expenditure code currently used by the Council) be created, into which £20,000 of funds be diverted from EMR 442 (Shire Hall project). This was deemed sufficiently prudent as delays have occurred in the execution of the Shire Hall Project. It was also hoped that the general reserve outturn for 2025/26 would allow for a replenishing of EMR 442.

The £20,000 would supplement the £5,000 already included in the 2026/7 budget and be in-line with the Council's decision to provide £25,000 a year over three years for this project.

At the March meeting of the Council, and additional £3,000 was provided following consideration of the year end position:

18. <u>To consider the financial forecast for the year end position and agree EMR movements where appropriate.</u>

The Council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee in regard of the Council's General Reserve position:

- The Council's Reserves Policy be updated to state that the General Reserve figure be targeted at £100,000 on April 1st, 2026.

The Council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee in regard of the following year end movements from the General Reserve (310):

- £8,000 to EMR 325 (Amenity Projects)
- £3,000 to EMR 411 (Estate Resilience)

The Council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee in regard of the following movement within the Council's Earmarked Reserves:

- £75,642.00 be transferred from EMR 353 (Capital Receipts) to EMR 343 (Shire Hall project).

The budget for 2027/28 still provides the £5000 (4135/140) Estate Resilience/ Projects funds, taking the total funds under the remit of the Committee to £15,000. There are no funds currently planned as a contribution to the Estate Resilience EMR.

The Finance Committee are not currently minded to provide any funding as no projects have, in their opinion, been identified as requiring funding next year – the lack of spending this year to date (noting that the funds are in reality earmarked for the borehole project), was also given as a potential reason.

This item is provided so that the Committee can consider if it has any 'oven ready' or easily quantified projects which could be provided to the Finance Committee for consideration for inclusion in the budget.

To consider project funding requests for consideration by the Finance Committee as part of the preparation of the 2027/28 Town Council budget.