Woodbridge TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 4th November 2026** at **5.30pm**

Councillors:

Present: Cllrs. David Adelson, Ellie Beck, Eamonn O'Nolan, Doreen Pegg, Nigel Phipps and Martin Wilks. Non-Councillor Members Oscar Brennecke-Dunn and Jane Healey.

Apologies: Non-Council members Jo Edwards and Rob Berry.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr G E Diaper) and Cllr. Robin Sanders.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were approved from Non-Council members Jo Edwards 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, who wished to speak at this point in the agenda.

5. **To agree and approve the minutes of the meeting held 7th October 2026.**

The minutes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee meeting held 7th October 2026 were approved as a true record.

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 Committee noted the planting schedule for the Fen Meadow Miyawaki forest.

The Council's Head Gardener was asked to include as part of her quarterly report further details about the planting plan, and was asked to consider how the planting would be monitored.

7. <u>To receive a verbal update on grant funding applications for solar panels on the Longshed.</u>

Cllr. O'Nolan advised that following research undertaken by the Deben Climate Centre, it has been established that due to the presence of a large number of skylights on the roof of the Longshed, the installation of solar panels on property is not viable.

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

The Committee noted that draft 3 of the Council's budget for 2027/28 contains the £10,000 Committee budget (5250), and £5,000 for in-year Estate Resilience (4134/140).

The Finance Committee were advised to consider minute number nine from the Committee's July meeting where the Committee agreed the funding priorities as part of the Estate Resilience planning.

Non-Council member Oscar Brennecke-Dunn agreed to provide a report on 'Woodbridge's Energy Independence' for consideration at the December meeting of the Committee.

The Town Clerk was asked to organise with Cllr. O'Nolan a Council visit to Grange Farm.

The Committee agreed to request of the Finance Committee that its preferred position would be to 'receive' a £10,000 in year Committee budget and to be provided £25,000 for Estate/ Townwide resilience projects – the latter request was predicated on the growing realisation in the Committee that support for projects outside of the Council's direct remit/ estate will form a significant part of Woodbridge's response to climate change in the coming years. Specifically, funding would be expected to be made available for:

- Grant funding for local businesses and residents seeking to make energy efficient improvements to their land and property.
- The provision of tree and plant giveaway schemes.

- Grant funding for organisations seeking to review and investigate, via feasibility studies, green infrastructure improvements in the town.
- Organisation of a bi-annual event celebrating the planet.

9. <u>To discuss topics for the Climate Ecological Emergency Committee Free Ad article.</u>

Cllr. Wilks was asked to include the following topics in his monthly report:

- Fen Meadow Miyawaki Forest
- 'Be Ready' campaign (Food security)
- COP 17
- Elmhurst Park water harvesting

13. <u>Closure</u>

The meeting closed at 6.46pm

Councillor Beck
Chair

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