

Minutes of the meeting of the **Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 7th October 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 member Rob Berry.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr G E Diaper) and two members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were approved from Non-Council member 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 2nd September 2026.

The minutes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee meeting held 2nd September 2026 were approved as a true record.

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

The Committee agreed to appoint Mr Jo Edwards as a Non-Council member to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee.

7. To consider the financial position of the Committee(5250), Estate Resilience EMR (411) and any committed expenditure.

The Committee noted the financial position, including any committed expenditure, of those expenditure codes for which the Committee are considering spending against.

8. To prioritise the ongoing projects of the committee.

The Committee agreed the following two projects represent the Committee's priority work at the current time:

1 – Elmhurst Park borehole and rainwater harvesting – The Committee noted the previous decision to proceed with the project and asked Officers to continue to seek grant funding support via the East Suffolk Council Thriving Places project. In the event of a successful application, the Council contribution would be expected to be met from EMR 411; should the grant funding not be forthcoming, EMR 411 and the Committee's budget (5250), would be required to fund the project in full.

2 – Focused tree giveaway – Funding already agreed and Officers asked to progress.

The Committee agreed the following actions in relation to other ongoing projects of the Committee:

1 – Installation of solar panels on the Kingston Pavilion – The Committee remains supportive of this proposal which will provide a direct financial benefit to the Council's tenants in the building. Officers were asked to continue to seek grant funding via the East Suffolk Council Thriving Places project. In the event of a successful application for both the borehole and solar panels, the Council's contribution for both projects could met across EMR 411 and 5250.

The Committee also considered a recent proposal made to Full Council by the Deben Climate Centre for grant funding support to support the creation of a community farm at Grange Farm, Hasketon. The Committee agreed that a final decision on the Kingston Pavilion solar panels and any potential financial support for the Deben Climate Centre will only be made once advice is received from East Suffolk Council further to grant funding applications.

2 – Installation of solar panels on the Longshed – see MN 9.

3 – Shade sails on Kingston Field – No further work to be undertaken at the current time.

4 – Drainage Issues Around the Town – Town Clerk and Estates Manager to re-open discussion with contractors about the cleansing of blocked highway drains in the town.

9. To receive an update from Cllr. Eamonn O’Nolan regarding the Great British Energy announcement.

Cllr. O’Nolan provided a verbal update following the Great British Energy announcement which could potential help fund the start up costs of some of the Committee’s energy related projects.

The Committee agreed that Officers be asked to explore the potential of using the new fund to provide solar panels on the Longshed and a feasibility study into townwide energy projects and infrastructure requirements.

10. To consider the proposed contract between WTC and the Bee Café CIC.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that the contract proposed by the Bee Café CIC to manage the ongoing care and maintenance of the Bee Cafes purchased by this Committee and installed throughout the town, is entered into by the Council.

11. To consider the tree works required at Fen Meadow and the play area.

The Committee noted the works to trees proposed as part of the installation of new play equipment on Fen Meadow.

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

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

- Water harvesting project in Elmhurst Park
- Warwick Avenue planters
- Great British Energy announcement

13. Closure

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Councillor Beck
Chair

DRAFT