

## **STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT MEETING HELD ON Tuesday, 07 January 2025 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD**

**PRESENT** Cllr Bret Allibone (Chair) Cllr Amanda Wheeler (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Lisa Brewin Cllr Yvette Díaz-Muñoz

**ABSENT:** Cllr Kelham Cooke (Ex Officio) Cllr Luke Chilman  
Cllr Jon Lott Cllr Rhea Rayside Cllr Max Sawyer

**IN ATTENDANCE** Sarah Dorson Town Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT** 9 Members of the public  
1 Member of public online

#### **Public Representations**

There was one verbal report regarding Net Zero Hub, a copy of the significant points is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX A**

Meeting commenced from 7.29pm

#### **405. Apologies for Absence**

##### **Proposal 1**

Apologies with valid reasons for absence was received and it was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllrs Chilman, Lott, Sawyer

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Bret Allibone	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Amanda Wheeler	
<b>For</b>	4	Cllrs Allibone, Wheeler, Brewin, Díaz- Muñoz,
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

#### **406. Declarations of Interest**

Nothing to report.

#### **407. Climate & Environment Budget Report**

The Committee noted there had been no changes.

#### **408. Updates on actions from last meeting**

##### **a. Approval of the Climate Action Plan:**

- The Climate Action Plan was formally approved by the Council and is now being implemented.
- The Environmental Policy is scheduled to be reviewed at the next Scrutiny Committee meeting.

##### **b. Tree Working Group:**

- The group collaborated to submit a biodiversity project funding application to SKDC. The application, finalised under a tight deadline, focuses on enhancing local biodiversity.

## 409. Climate Projects

### a. **EV Charging Infrastructure:**

- A recent EV charging point installation in St. Leonard's Street was praised for its sensitive integration into the historic environment.

### b. **Building Regulations and Sustainable Development:**

- New national building regulations introduced before Christmas emphasise renewable energy solutions like solar panels and heat pumps.
- Members debated the gap between encouraging sustainable practices and mandating them. Concerns were raised over developers citing cost barriers to adopting greener methods.

### c. **Balancing Heritage and New Builds:**

- Members discussed prioritising sustainability efforts:
  - While retrofitting older buildings is important, the group highlighted the greater impact of ensuring all new developments meet high sustainability standards.
  - The focus should be on preventing missed opportunities for sustainability in large-scale new developments.

### d. **Strategic Planning for Housing Stock:**

- The group proposed conducting a strategic review of council-owned housing stock and new developments to determine the most effective actions for decarbonisation.
- Suggestions included analysing resources and leveraging council influence to prioritise impactful projects.

## 410. Sandbag Policy

### **Background**

- SKDC gifted the Town Council 10 sets of sandbags for use in flooding emergencies.
- Previously, large quantities of sandbags were distributed freely, but this led to misuse and inefficiencies. The current allocation is limited to 10 sets, with no future resupply or budget for additional sandbags.

### **Policy Details**

#### a. **Target Recipients:**

- Sandbags are reserved exclusively for households, prioritising those at risk of flooding.
- Businesses are excluded as they are expected to seek assistance through the Floodline or their own contingency plans.
- Vulnerable individuals in private rentals near flood-prone areas are a key consideration.

#### b. **Distribution:**

- Sandbags will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, with the required information obtained to pass to SKDC.

- Once issued, recipients are responsible for keeping the sandbags at their property for reuse if needed.
- c. **Storage and Collection:**
  - The sandbags are securely stored at the cemetery workshop.
  - Recipients must arrange their own collection.
- d. **Public Communication:**
  - The policy will not be widely publicised due to the limited supply.
  - Sandbags will be allocated based on individual requests made to the Town Clerk.

**Proposal 2** – It was **RESOLVED** to grant the Clerk delegated authority to distribute 10 sets of sandbags on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusively for household use.

<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Bret Allibone	
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Amanda Wheeler	
<b>For</b>	4	Cllrs Allibone, Wheeler, Brewin, Díaz- Muñoz,
<b>Against</b>	0	
<b>Abstained</b>	0	
<b>Motion</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>	

## 411. Mercury columns

### Discussion on Future Mercury Newspaper Columns

#### Topics for Future Columns

- a. **Climate Action Plan:**
  - Chris was nominated to write a column focusing on how the Climate Action Plan can engage the entire community.
- b. **Upcoming Contributions:**
  - Cllr Devereux will write about planning and water issues, which includes integrating sustainable practices into planning systems.
  - Joe Kemp will contribute a column on creating a sustainable community.
- c. **Additional Suggestions:**
  - Rachel raised concerns about previous comments suggesting SKDC cannot address certain environmental issues through planning. She emphasised the role of planning in promoting river restoration and resilience.
  - Rachel proposed writing about the integration of planning and water management to highlight sustainable approaches.

The discussion highlighted the importance of using Mercury columns to promote awareness and action on climate and planning issues.

## 412. Future Agenda items

- a. **Five-Year Plan and Net Zero Plan:**
  - The agenda will include discussions on the Council's five-year plan and progress on the Net Zero Plan.
- b. **Tree Planting Initiative:**
  - An immediate action plan for tree planting will be required, as the planting season ends in March. This will involve incorporating feedback from the Assets & Services committee.

### **413. Closure**

The date of the next meeting scheduled – Tuesday, 04 March 2025 at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.23pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date

Initialled by Chair

## **Appendix A**

### **Presentation on Net Zero Hub Funding**

#### **Overview of the Midlands Net Zero Hub**

The Midlands Net Zero Hub was introduced, with an emphasis on its role in supporting sustainability initiatives and enabling local efforts to achieve net zero targets. It was noted that the hub's work often involves navigating challenges posed by conservation regulations.

#### **Conservation Challenges and Opportunities**

- Members raised concerns about the limitations of existing conservation frameworks and their impact on net zero initiatives.
- Net Zero Hub acknowledged the need to test these frameworks to better understand their implications on sustainable development.
- Heritage resilience was highlighted, with members noting the need to balance conservation with climate adaptation to protect historic sites from extreme weather.

#### **Wind Turbines and Planning Considerations**

- A question was raised about potential movement on wind turbine development visible from Burghley House.
- A member of the public remarked that such claims are often based on rumours and lack substantiated planning discussions. The group agreed it was not directly relevant to the current discussion.

#### **Engaging Stakeholders**

- Members discussed the importance of involving key stakeholders, such as heritage organisations and local planning authorities, to create a comprehensive strategy.
- Net Zero Hub suggested leveraging regional connections to address both policy and practical considerations for net zero initiatives.

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#### **Consultant Scope and Expertise**

- The group deliberated on hiring consultants to advise on the integration of net zero goals with heritage conservation.
- It was agreed that the scope of work must encompass expertise across various fields, including heritage, commercial assets, and broader sustainability practices.

#### **Collaboration and Next Steps**

- Net Zero Hub appreciated the group's engagement and highlighted the importance of continued collaboration to achieve net zero targets.
- Members emphasised the need for further discussions and brainstorming sessions to refine the approach and involve diverse perspectives.

The session concluded with Net Zero Hub thanking participants for their contributions and reiterating the importance of stakeholder involvement in driving the net zero agenda forward. The group expressed interest in ongoing discussions to shape future actions.