



# HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG

Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Committee (CBEC) held  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High St, Haslemere

<b>Chair</b>	*Cllr A Bayliss
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	*Cllr C Matthes
<b>Councillors</b>	*Austin, *Banfield, *Bridge, Miller, *Waters, Weatherburn, *Weldon

\* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan.

## **14/25      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Miller and Weatherburn are on holiday.

Cllr Weldon had notified the committee that he would be late to the meeting.

## **15/25      DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

In relation to item 7i Cllr Matthes disclosed a non-pecuniary interest - her husband has a council run allotment.

## **16/25      MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 need the following amendments, after which they will be signed by the Chair: 1) Cllr Austin to be shown as attending, 2) the amount of the green grants pot for the year to show £2,500.

## **17/25      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES**

Cllr Austin spoke with St Barts school about them providing photos of produce grown with the town council grant. It was too early when she first approached them in June, but she has now reminded them that the committee would like to see evidence.

Cllr Bayliss has given some questions to the Admin and Community officer to use when meeting with local organisations.

**ACTION:** the ACO to provide the committee with a report on responses.

Cllr Matthes reported that in relation to Golden Valley verge cutting, paths to allow access to desire lines have been built into future years.

Cllr Bayliss reported that he had spoken to Cllr Robini regarding s106 money for Sturt Ave. It was confirmed that money has been received but Cllr Bayliss has not been provided with information on what Highways plan to do with it.

## **18/25      CBEC AND HTC OPERATIONS**

- i. Carbon neutral roadmap (previous version circulated prior to meeting).

The committee noted that much of the work on the CNR has been completed. It is now time to consider whether the committee needs to engage with the wider community.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will add double glazing in the council chamber to CNR achievements.

The idea of the council leasing an electric van was discussed. The Council requires such a vehicle for day to day work around the town.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is asked to recommend to the budget working party that budget for an electric vehicle is considered in the budget round for 2026-27.

- ii. Standard tender document clause. It is thought that tendering is in use which respects environmental issues, such as the recent playground equipment project. However, should we explicitly say this as a standard clause in tendering?

**ACTION:** The Clerk will update the council's Standing Orders (tender process) to provide that, where relevant, each formal tender should contain a set of environmental and biodiversity questions, to be provided to officers by CBEC / Amenities members. The revised document will be taken to F&G in late October.

The need for a biodiversity roadmap was discussed however the Clerk reminded the committee that the council has already had a biodiversity baseline survey of the land it owns and as a result there is a working party which is looking at actions required.

The Clerk raised the issue that a lot of discussion at CBEC actually duplicates work being done elsewhere. The terms of reference needs to be reviewed and potentially changes needs to be made to ensure that officer and councillor time is not being wasted on discussing the same issue or idea in different places. She noted that in addition to CBEC, there is also the Amenities committee which deals with the overall management of the council's assets, as well as a Biodiversity working party.

**ACTION:** The Clerk is requested to consider how potential duplications of time and effort in relation to environment / biodiversity / management of council land can be best managed and produce a proposal.

## **19/25      INTERACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY**

- i. Community knowledge sharing and promotion.

A number of suggestions were made as to how CBEC could better engage in helping the wider community in environmental / biodiversity initiatives. It was suggested that the council's newsletter could be used as a vehicle to disseminate information and signposting residents to information, such as a map of EV charging stations in the town, was suggested.

Cllr Waters noted that although there were a number of local projects these were not being adequately communicated to the public and this was causing negative feedback. In particular, the projects at the Golden Valley and Grovers Garden need to be better communicated so that residents understand the rationale behind them.

It was agreed that significant schemes on town council owned or managed land must be effectively communicated to the public, with a preference for printed leaflets being given to residents, and organisations running such schemes must provide a communication plan before any funding or agreements is given.

**ACTION:** the Clerk will write to Haslemere Biodiversity Group informing them that they will need to provide a communications plan for further work related to the revenue grant funding it has received for 2025-25 and will receive for 2026-27.

## **20/25      BIODIVERSITY**

- i. Allotments.

There was some discussion on the allotment agreements and how they should be managed. The Clerk reminded the committee that management of the allotments falls under the remit of Amenities committee and that this issue has recently been considered by them. It was suggested that allotment holders could be given a leaflet or advice on how to manage their allotments in a sustainable way. Cllr Bridge noted that there is a lot of information freely available on this subject.

This is really an Amenities issue and those CBEC councillors who also sit on the Amenities committee should address it in that forum.

- ii. Wildlife on current and future Town Council land.

The committee noted that thought needs to be given to supporting biodiversity on any land the town council takes over. Again, this will be led by the Amenities committee.

- iii. Biodiversity Net Gain.

BNG credits can be sold to developers who are offsetting negative impacts elsewhere. It is possible that the council could sell units on land it owns which would fund biodiversity improvements on that land.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will diarise this subject to come back to the committee in a year.

**21/25      STAFF IMPACT**

The committee is aware that some suggested initiatives may impact staff resource. The Clerk will raise any issues as they present themselves.

**22/25      GREEN GRANTS**

The committee noted that since the last meeting, the Chair and Clerk approved, under delegated authority, an application from Love Haslemere Hate Waste for £495. This money will be used to add additional items to their 'library of things'.

**23/25      COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – BRIEF UPDATES**

None.

Meeting ended 8.30pm

Signed.....  
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....