



## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group**

**Venue:** The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate

**Date:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 6pm

**Present:** Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green and Corinna Huxley.

Also in attendance:

Dean Williams (Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer – Minutes)

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Albon, Crittenden, Hudson and Nixey. There were no other apologies.

**RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were received and considered.

**RESOLUTION:**

- **The minutes were noted as accurate.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE**

Unfortunately, Jim has not had any further correspondence with Stagecoach. Jim will follow up.

David's daughter has written to the manager at Tesco Manston regarding the recycling of Tetrapaks, she has not yet received a response. Tricia mentioned that the new recycling scheme at Thanet District Council may allow for Tetrapaks to be recycled in household recycling.

**RESOLUTION:**

- **Jim to follow up with Stagecoach via email.**
- **David to report progress of the contact with Tesco Manston regarding the recycling of Tetrapaks.**
- **Tricia and Dean to check if Tetrapaks can be recycled in the new recycling scheme brought in by Thanet District Council.**

#### **CYCLING FACILITIES**

Tricia informed the group that the Bike Hanger trials are going ahead and she would keep the group informed of the progress. The sites for bike hangers are now:

- **Staffordshire Street Car Park**

- Ramsgate Train Station
- Pier Yard Car Park (this has changed from the promenade)

#### **RESOLUTION:**

- **Tricia to follow up and report back on the progress of the bike Hanger trials in town.**

#### **FRUIT TREE INITIATIVE**

Dean asked the group whether to reopen the Fruit Tree Initiative waiting list for 2027. This would run over the summer and be capped at 100 applicants, the same ruling would still apply and be subject to new residents only. The suggestion was made to email local churches and groups first before opening the waiting list back up.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

- **Dean to contact local community groups and churches by email to invite expression of interest for participation in the Fruit Tree Initiative.**
- **Follow the above consultation period, Dean will reopen the waiting list for the 2027 Fruit Tree Initiative over the summer, this will be capped at 100 Applicants and limited to new residents only.**

#### **ACTION PLAN**

Tricia informed the group that funding streams are available for the Repair Café.

Tricia identified that other Repair Cafes around the country incorporate a Carbon Impact monitoring for the items that have been repaired. There could be possible funding for this.

Tricia informed the group that £1,200 from last year's budget (2025/2026) has been paid to Youngs Nursery for planters for the summer. These will be for households without gardens. The Town Shed are not yet ready to make window boxes but this could be a possibility for the next round, if the group agrees.

The grant for the refill water fountain along the Westcliff, between the steps to Western Undercliff and Lookout Café, has been successful and we have been granted £2,500. Further funding and ongoing maintenance will need to be decided by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Tricia informed the group that Thanet District Council are no longer using read receipts for email, as this generates an automated response, using more computing power. Tricia suggested that this be adopted by the office. Dean suggested that this could be an amendment to the Environmental Policy.

Dean informed the group that the criteria for recruiting new members has been sent and responses will be collated and sent to the group for consideration.

Tricia will follow up with Kent County Council on the use of weedkiller and will wait to see what happens leading up to the summer season.

David reported that there were 8 street trees planted in Nethercourt. David will liaise with Dean on materials needed for Nethercourt, i.e. rakes and seeds. David asked whether infrared panels would be suitable for the office space at Radford House, rather than using the boiler to heat the building. Dean informed David that this would heat the person and would be ideal for an office environment.

Tricia informed the group that the Town Shed is growing and now runs every Monday and Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings. They build bat and bird boxes, as well as benches. Funding is available and Tricia is meeting with Neville/Suzy to discuss funding opportunities.

**RESOLUTION:**

- **Tricia and Dean to discuss the Carbon Impact of the repairs made at the Repair Café.**
- **Dean to amend the Environmental Policy to disable read receipts by default and restrict their use to exceptional circumstances.**
- **Dean to collate and send the recruitment responses to members for consideration.**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is to be decided by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in June.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:37pm.