



Seaford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Committee on 18 September 2025

Held in the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors C Bristow (Chair), R Buchanan (Vice Chair), S Dubas, S Dunn, R Honeyman, O Matthews, J Meek, G Rutland and M Wearmouth

Steve Quayle, Town Clerk

Darryl Keech, Deputy Town Clerk & RFO

Peter Cousin, Head of Place

Sharan Brydon, Operations & Facilities Manager

Simon Lambert, Golf Course Manager

Georgia Raeburn, Senior Committee Clerk

Shaun Doyle, Seaford Head Golf Club representative

Alan Flood, Seaford Head Golf Club representative

There were five members of the public attendance

GO12/09/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Rutland and L Wallraven (Councillor S Dubas substituting).

GO13/09/25 Disclosure of Interests

During agenda item 5, Councillor C Bristow declared a non-pecuniary interest in the agenda item and discussion, as she is employed by the South Downs National Park Authority, however she works on an externally-funded standalone project (the Ouse Valley Climate Action Project) which is separate from the core responsibilities of the SDNPA.

GO14/09/25 Public Participation

Speaker	Statement
Resident A	<i>Speaking on agenda item 5 and as a Cuckmere Valley Parish Councillor and Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), raised concerns regarding the number of visitors to the Seven Sisters who are coming to Seaford and</i>

	<i>heading east, attempting to go through the river mouth, which is very dangerous. Extended their willingness to work with the Town Council to deal with this and offer any help if needed.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution. Confirmed that the Town Council is aware of situation, has had initial conversations with SDNPA and are looking to develop signage and a plan going forwards
<i>Resident B</i>	<i>Speaking on agenda item 9 and as a representative of Seaford Rugby Club, clarified that this request is seeking landowner permission before submitting a planning application. Explained that floodlights are being sought to replace those that were previously there to enable training after dark, as the current system with three lights on the roof is considered dangerous for players. In response to a query regarding the colour of the LED and impact on nighttime insects and wildlife, the resident confirmed that the Club are discussing this with their supplier and will take their advice on this – committing to make this change if it does not affect the efficacy of the lights. Understands that the lights would be a modern version of what was there before – direct onto the training pitch and less obtrusive than the skate park and tennis courts when fully lit.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution. Confirmed the Town Council has received a query regarding the LED colour and appreciates the commitment of the Club to look into this.
<i>Resident C</i>	<i>Speaking on agenda item 5 and as a representative of Trees for Seaford (TFS), shared that TFS has planted their 1000th tree with 120 in the last planting season, working with partners and by securing external funding. This coming year will see trees planted in Seaford Close, Haven Brow and replacements for any that haven't survived. Explained that there had been issues with the verge contractor's strimmers damaging trees and watering bags but this is being resolved. Announced that TFS are in the process of finalising a new maps software that will identify every tree planted by TFS and</i>

	<i>allow the public to report any damage or concerns about the trees.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution. Noted the plethora of great trees and offered that Town Council's support with communicating the new map once launched.

GO15/09/25 Golf Course Update – September 2025

The Committee considered report 65/25 providing an update on golf course maintenance and golf course related matters.

Officers provided an update on the final costings for the proposed POGO equipment: £4,600 for the equipment purchase, mapping, training and one year subscription, followed by an annual subscription fee of £1,500.

Officers confirmed that the ex-demonstration golf buggy had been purchased this week and that work was underway with to finalise the signage advising of play and walking routes on the course.

Members discussed the use of the golf course by walkers: work underway to better understand and seek expert advice on the rights of way on Seaford Head; the health and safety implications of other users on a golf course; balancing the safety of all users and experience for golf users; continued work to assess onsite signage and work with partners on this; difficulties of entry point signage; the risk assessments onsite, and; statistics of incidents with walkers being hit by balls.

Members discussed the proposed new POGO equipment: the equipment enabling efficiency of the irrigation system and consistency of the greens across the course; the data provided by the system enabling the greenkeeping team to more efficiently tailor their management of the greens; improved grass health in time; courses being judged by golfers on the quality of its greens and this helping retain existing players but also entice new players; the intention to own the equipment and continue with an annual subscription for data storage and analysis, and; the purchase cost being met by unbudgeted capital receipts.

The Golf Club representatives raised a query relating to the cleaning of the toilet facilities at The View.

GO15.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO15.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the purchase of a POGO device for water and turf health management.

(7.45pm - 7.50pm: a short break was held. Three members of the public left, along with Alan Flood and Shaun Doyle from Seaford Head Golf Club)

GO16/09/25 Open Spaces & Climate Action Projects Log & Update Report – September 2025

The Committee considered report 75/25 presenting the Open Spaces & Climate Action Projects Log, and providing an update on progress and actions relating to the Town Council's Open Spaces and Climate Action agenda.

(During the discussion, Councillor C Bristow declared her non-pecuniary interest, as included at GO13/09/25 above)

Members discussed: amending the Martello Fields heading within the report to include Cliff Gardens; the historic and ecological importance of dew ponds and the byelaws of the Nature Reserve regarding dew ponds; the location and cost of the Bönningstedt Promenade repairs and plans for future repairs of the promenade in its entirety; discussions with other landowners and stakeholders around the management and accessibility of High & Over; Lewes District Council's handling of the errors to their dog ban bylaw signage on the seafront; public emails received regarding the balance between differing golf course users and appropriate signage and raising awareness of what is being protected / communicate the value of site; the signage budget for 2026 – 2027 and looking at how to make this multi-lingual; people still accessing Hope Gap Steps and repairs required to the encasement and signage; the progress of the Hope Gap Steps structural engineers report and plans for presenting options back to Full Council; progress of the cycle racks at The Salts; separation of the budget for remedial works at South Hill Barn and the wider development project; the remedial pipe works at South Hill Barn and the connection this has with the dew pond; clarity around the approved budget for the South Hill Barn project and further Full Council approval being needed to move forward with next phases; the remit of South Hill Barn Working Group and the next steps with regards to the review of the parking arrangements and this being brought back to Full Council; the prevention of dogs in the Outdoor Gym area at The Salts and whether this could be replicated in areas within The Crouch; inspection of the allotments and concerns around overhanging trees; the update report including updates from the Town Council rather than individual partners, and; thanks to officers for being so responsive with the grass cutting contract arrangements. It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO17/09/25 Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Income & Expenditure Report up to 31 July 2025

The Committee considered report 62/25 presenting the Committee's income and expenditure up to 31 July 2025.

Members discussed: the arrangements with the golf professional as a contractor; queried the income from South Hill Barn; wider celebratory communication of the success of the golf course financially and The View no longer being loss-making as it has been outsourced.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO18/09/25 Climate Action Plan & Climate Emergency Policy

This item of business was deferred.

GO19/09/25 Grounds Maintenance Contract & Next Steps

The Committee considered report 74/25 providing an update on the progress of the Grounds Maintenance Contract from April 2026 and the planned next steps.

Members discussed the liaison with stakeholders of green spaces and the OVCA-funded biodiversity and habitats assessment for The Crouch and The Salts.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report

GO20/09/25 Proposal for Floodlight System Upgrade at Seaford Rugby Club

The Committee considered report 73/25 presenting a proposal for the upgrade of the current floodlight system at Seaford Rugby Club, located at The Salts, due to deterioration and inefficiency of existing lighting set-up.

Members discussed: whether solar panels could be used to help power the lighting system; exclusivity for the Rugby Club; the focus of the lights to minimise light spillage; the Rugby Club's commitment to look at the colour of the lights, and; Town Council officers being involved in the final placement of the lights.

GO20.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report

GO20.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**, subject to planning permission, removal of the existing roof-mounted floodlights and installation of a new 15-metre floodlight mast with LED lights at the previous tower location.

GO20.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that Seaford Rugby Club liaise with officers regarding final placement, installation, coordination, and site logistics at The Salts Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Councillor C Bristow

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Chair of Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action