



## Seaford Town Council

### **Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Committee on 5 March 2026**

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

#### **Present:**

Councillors C Bristow (Chair), R Buchanan (Vice Chair), S Dunn, J Meek, G Rutland, L Wallraven and M Wearmouth

Darryl Keech, Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) (clerking the meeting)

Steve Quayle, Town Clerk

Peter Cousin, Head of Place

Simon Lambert, Golf Course Manager

George Raeburn, Senior Committee Clerk

There was one member of the public attendance

The Chair welcomed the Deputy Town Clerk & RFO in his role clerking this meeting

#### **GO31/03/25 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Honeyman, O Matthews and I Taylor.

The Golf Professional also submitted their apologies and welcomed any questions from the Committee via email.

#### **GO32/03/25 Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of interests.

#### **GO33/03/25 Public Participation**

| Speaker           | Statement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Resident A</i> | <i>Speaking on agenda item 5, wanted to extend an invite to all members to attend Seaford Environmental Alliance's event hosting the National Emergency briefings for a non-political open discussion, on 17 April at 6pm at the Mercread Centre. Queried whether the Town Council would support with advertising across the town.</i> |

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Town Council Response | Thanked the resident for their contribution and for highlighting the opportunity to engage with the event. Confirmed that the Town Council would be able to support with advertising the event. |
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*(7.09pm to 7.12pm - a short break to allow one member of public to exit the meeting)*

### **GO34/03/25      Golf Course Update Report – March 2026**

The Committee considered report 166/25 providing an update on progress and actions relating to the Town Council owned Seaford Head Golf Course.

The Golf Course Manager provided a verbal update on the machinery order that is due to be delivered in April, a site visit from the washdown system company that is ready to order soon, and a positive meeting with Sussex Wildlife Trust to discuss areas that are due to be mapped and added into the proposed Countryside Stewardship Scheme (appearing elsewhere on this agenda).

Members congratulated the greenkeeping team on the condition of the course following winter, being pleased to see the uplift in membership numbers, and welcoming the initiatives introduced onsite e.g. bird and owl boxes.

Members queried the statement within the report relating to positive national engagement levels of golf, and the longer-term weather predictions for this year, with good weather conditions year to date for the course.

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

### **GO35/03/25      Open Spaces & Climate Action Update Report – March 2026**

The Committee considered report 180/25 presenting an update on progress and actions relating to the Town Council's open spaces and climate actions.

The Head of Place verbally updated on quotes being obtained to replace the deteriorating posts at Blatchington Pond.

In response to members queries, officers confirmed that: they are working up options for Hope Gap Steps to bring back to Full Council taking into account rapid cliff erosion, such as that seen recently at Birling Gap Steps; Full Council approval for the cycle racks at South Hill Barn has already been given but that the possibility of using the metal rings on the barn wall will be explored; the works to improve the track from South Hill Barn down to the Coastguard Cottages is ongoing and will be a phased delivery, and; the estimate for completion of the Cliff Gardens project is currently late spring/early summer but this is to be

confirmed, and officers will review the safety signage onsite including with the newly introduced cycle track.

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

### **GO36/03/25      Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Update Report – March 2026**

The Committee considered report 173/25 providing an update on work being carried out across Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve.

The Committee thanked Sussex Wildlife Trust for providing the update and the work onsite. In response to member queries, officers clarified the arrangements with litter collection following beach cleans at Cuckmere beach / Hope Gap Steps. The Committee thanked the tenant farmer for their support in this process. Officers also confirmed that the Seven Sisters National Nature Reserve (NNR) launch is due soon, the South Downs National Park Authority is publicising events in relation to World Water Day, and that following the launch more joined up working should be seen across the whole NNR site.

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

### **GO37/03/25      Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Income & Expenditure Report up to 31 January 2026**

The Committee considered report 179/25 informing the Committee of Income and Expenditure up to 31 January 2026.

In response to member queries, officers confirmed that the income rent at Seaford Head Estate relates to the tenant farmer, the toilet hire at Seaford Head Estate was a one off expense, and the telescope by West View Kiosk will be inspected for any possible maintenance needs.

Members welcomed the variance appendix and the clear and extensive information contained within.

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

### **GO38/03/25      Proposals for the Gravel Strip Alongside the Esplanade, Adjacent to the Martello Tower**

The Committee considered report 178/25 presenting the review of options available for the gravel strip and seek Committee's approval to further investigate the preferred option.

In response to member queries, officers confirmed that: the bollards being explored are plastic enabling the required yield due to proximity to the highway; the exact bollard placement is to be investigated to balance road safety and preventing parking; there being

no immediate plans to repair the gravel strip surface; if motorhomes are displaced elsewhere on the seafront should be less impactful as they are less likely to be grouped together and that enforcement will be possible; there being a section of bollards that could be removeable should access be required in the future, and; the bollards being designed to bounce back after being struck therefore reducing the likelihood of damage from vandalism. Members welcomed the timeliness of this work in preparation for the peak season.

**GO38.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report

**GO38.2** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to instruct officers to design and cost the option of bollards along the edge of the gravel strip and present a costed proposal to Full Council for consideration and approval.

### **GO39/03/25      Seaford Biodiversity Audit Proposal**

The Committee considered report 176/25 requesting that the Committee provides Town Council support of a Biodiversity Audit of Seaford.

In response to member queries, officers clarified that the Town Council's support would be through its communication channels and with officer time in meetings, and that the audit data will be shared by Seaford Natural History Society once concluded.

**GO39.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

**GO39.2** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to give the Town Council's support for Seaford Natural History Society to undertake the Seaford-wide Biodiversity Audit.

### **GO40/03/25      High & Over – Improvement to Access and Biodiversity**

The Committee considered report 175/25 updating the Committee and seek approval of proposals for improvements to High and Over.

In response to member queries and concerns raised, officers confirmed: that the fences being explored would be goat-proof; the location and specifics of the William Reed Jeffreys memorial; the site visit with a South Downs National Park Authority officer discussing how to make the viewpoint more accessible; that only certain areas would be cleared not the entire site; the there is only one right of way onsite but there would be three fully accessible gates from the car park; that the memorial benches onsite form part of the Town Council's portfolio of benches requiring inspection and ongoing maintenance; that the Assets & Facilities Concession Working Group would be looking at whether to suggest the reintroduction of a concession at High & Over; that there is no suggestion to restore the grass chalkland or heavily cut or graze the land, the aim is to encourage rewilding, glades and a diversity of age of scrub, and; that the history of the ownership of the site by the

Town Council is not known but that it is legal for councils to own land outside of the parish boundary.

**GO40.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

**GO40.2** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that, subject to sufficient external funding being achieved, the proposed improvement works are undertaken at High and Over, as set out within the report.

**GO40.3** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that, subject to the externally funded improvement works taking place, the Head of Place be delegated power to enter into a grazing licence for High and Over with the National Trust's tenant for Frog Firle, for a period of three years.

### **GO41/03/25 Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Scheme – Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve & Seaford Head Golf Course**

The Committee considered report 174/25 seeking the Committee's recommendation to Full Council to enter into a five year Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Agreement to facilitate crucial improvement works to the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Seaford Head.

Members voiced that this work is exceptionally important and requested that officers ensure the report to Full Council stresses the importance of the Town Council's statutory duty as landowner.

**GO41.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to approve that officers enter into a five-year Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Agreement.

**GO41.2** It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to approve the spend on capital works, to be partly reclaimed from the Rural Payments Agency.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

*Councillor C Bristow*

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Chair of Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action