



Seaford Town Council

Minutes

Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Committee Meeting

Thursday 4 June 2026

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

Present:

Councillors J Meek (Chair) and R Buchanan (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Dubas (substituting for Councillor G Rutland), S Dunn, S Markwell (substituting for Councillor M Wearmouth), and L Wallraven

Peter Coursin, Head of Place

Simon Lambert, Golf Course Manager

Sharan Brydon, Operations & Facilities Manager

George Raeburn, Senior Committee Clerk

There were seven members of the public attendance

GO01/06/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bristow, G Rutland and M Wearmouth.

The reasons for absence were approved as follows: Councillors G Rutland and M Wearmouth (personal commitments), and Councillor C Bristow (unwell).

Councillor I Taylor was unaccounted for.

The Town Clerk and Golf Professional both also conveyed their apologies for the meeting.

GO02/06/26 Disclosure of Interests

Councillor L Wallraven declared a non-pecuniary interest as Vice President of Seaford Lifeguards and a member of the National Trust.

Councillor S Dunn declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the National Trust.

Councillor J Meek declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Sussex Wildlife Trust.

GO03/06/26 Public Participation

Speaker	Statement
<i>Resident A</i>	<i>Regarding agenda item 10, shared their support for the Farm Objective Plan and the valuable contributions that the farm has in the local area and to the Nature Reserve. Expressed their thanks to the tenant farmer for their works and approach</i>

	<i>onsite, being pleased to see a balance of sustainable farming with environmental and community benefits. Requested that as plans go forward, consideration is given to visitor pressure that is already well known in the area.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution.
<i>Resident B</i>	<i>Speaking on behalf of Seaford Lifeguards about agenda item 8, spoke to the importance of understanding the history of the Lifeguards, having been formed in the 1970s and now seeking a more adequate unit for the seafront to reflect how things have moved on. Spoke highly of the Chair of Seaford Lifeguards and their commitment to their role since the Lifeguards formed in the 1970s. Hoped that the Lifeguards had done what was possible to answer the queries put forward from the Town Council.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution.
<i>Resident A</i>	<i>Regarding agenda item 11, thanked the Town Council for the continued work to address visitor pressures that Seaford faces, as one of the main entry points to the Heritage Coast. Encouraged the Town Council to continue working closely with key partners to share knowledge and resources. Urged the Town Council to ensure public involvement in the process. Queried whether temporary signage could be introduced onsite at the Nature Reserve to address issues of littering, drones, amplified music and BBQ use. Queried what the current plans are for management of the coaches and parking, which have caused pedestrian safety issues. Welcomed the commitment to developing a strategy for visitor management and hopes that this will be a positive for balancing environmental protection, sustainable tourism and public access, with helping to preserve the Nature Reserve and Heritage Coast for future generations.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution.

(The Chair agreed to bring forward agenda item 8)

GO04/06/26 Seaford Lifeguards – Request for a Seafront Base

The Committee considered report 08/26 providing further information on the Seaford Lifeguards proposal for containers to be placed in the Esplanade Car Park and seeking the Committee's steer on next steps.

Members discussed: the Town Council's commitment to supporting the Lifeguards and the provision of a lifeguard service, with thanks to the volunteer lifeguards for all of their activities to ensure safety on the beach; concerns around the placing of shipping containers along the eastern end of the seafront and feeling that Bönningstedt would be more suitable; thanks to the residents for submitting their comments and attending the meeting; the permanence of the proposed containers despite the lifeguard cover being on limited days in peak season; queries around why the current provision offered does not suffice; the need for data to support the proposals and ensure evidence-based decision making; the need to ensure a longer term solution that allows sufficient space for training and to accommodate greater tourism and visitor levels; whether there are any alternative options, such as one that could be removed off season, and; remembering that the Town Council has incurred expenditure renovating the Martello Beach Hut for use by the Lifeguards and a loss of ongoing rental income.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed: that other solutions and locations for a seafront base can continue to be explored and discussed with the Lifeguards; that the Lifeguards aim had been for the containers to provide an active base rather than just storage; that if a container were placed on the Martello gravel strip, this would require a licence from East Sussex Highways, so this not being considered a suitable option to pursue; that officers are not aware if the Lifeguards have sought pre-application planning advice from Lewes District Council, and; if anything were placed on Bönningstedt promenade, that this would be subject to approval from the Environment Agency.

GO04.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **REJECT** for the original proposals, alongside this new information, to be presented to Full Council.

GO04.2 It was **PROPOSED** to **AGREE** that a temporary solution for one season be offered to the Lifeguards to be stationed at the upgraded beach hut by the Martello, and maintain the rugby club for training facilities (subject to Rugby Club approval) and the boathouse for equipment storage. Furthermore, that the Lifeguards will pay for the use of power and water, as agreed, and will collect data on numbers assisted, type of assistance provided, equipment used on each assistance, and report back to GOSCA for information at the end of the season. Discussions for a long-term solution will be continued; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

GO04.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

(7.47pm to 7.50pm – a short break was held and three members of the public left the meeting)

GO05/06/26 Golf Course Update Report – June 2026

The Committee considered report 10/26 updating the committee on progress and actions relating to the Town Council owned Seaford Head Golf Course.

Officers provided a verbal update on: being over budgeted income for the first two months of the new financial year; an ex-Tour Professional creating a [YouTube video](#) showcasing Seaford Head Golf Course; the works undertaken to enhance the rear of The View with a reshaped bank and wildflower mix to bind the bank and attract native pollinators, and; the wildflower area on the 6th hole doing well. In response to queries from members, officers confirmed that the 17th green / 18th tee project is progressing according to the schedule set out within the Town Council's Strategic Programme, with stakeholder consultations nearly completed and lots of information gathered.

The Committee congratulated the Golf Course on the increase in membership numbers and the conservation and nature initiatives onsite.

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

GO06/06/26 Open Spaces & Climate Action Update Report – June 2026

The Committee considered report 12/26 providing an update on progress and actions relating to the Town Council's open spaces and climate actions.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed that the Cliff Gardens project is due for completion in August 2026 and work is progressing to introduce the required paperwork, with officers currently working with Seaford Community Partnership who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance onsite to agree a Management & Maintenance Agreement and reviewing paperwork relating to the Heritage Lottery Funding.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed: that they are aware of issues with the grass verge cutting and that these are being investigated as a matter of priority with the contractor in accordance with the contract; that the works at High & Over were agreed at the last Committee meeting to improve the pathways, interpretation signage onsite, and introduce grazing to clear scrub and encourage biodiversity; that a memorial bench at High & Over had to be removed as it was beyond repair and will not be replaced while the Memorials Policy is on hold; they will review the plans for the installation of the cycle racks at South Hill Barn and whether there are options to utilise the livestock rings on the Barn or reduce installation costs, and; that a further health & safety inspection will be done of The Salts path.

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

(8.12pm to 8.14pm – a short break was held and two members of public left the meeting)

GO07/06/26 Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Update Report – June 2026

The Committee considered report 09/26 updating the committee on work being undertaken at Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve.

Officers provided a verbal update on: a targeted approach being sought, through the use of electrocution, to deal with the bramble onsite and looking at external funding for a contractor to carry this out; new information signage being introduced at South Hill Barn, that South Downs National Park Authority is funding, and; the Albion cattle being onsite permanently.

The Committee thanked Sussex Wildlife Trust for all their work onsite, helping to steward the Site of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserve in a way that is productive for rare species.

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

GO08/06/26 Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Income and Expenditure Report – Year ended 31 March 2026

The Committee considered report 13/26 presenting details of the final income and expenditure position for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 and seeking recommendations to Full Council relating to Earmarked Reserve movements.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed: that the seafront telescope can be inspected for any maintenance needs; quotes are being sought for improvement works to the chalk path down to Cuckmere Valley and that public access will be maintained throughout the works being carried out, and; that following the signage audit, signage at South Hill Barn will be a priority, amalgamating these and ensuring clarity around where cycling is allowed.

GO08.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO08.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that Full Council earmarks underspends as set out within Report 13/26 Appendix D.

GO09/06/26 Crouch Bowling Green – Arrangements for Public Use

The Committee considered report 14/26 seeking approval of the arrangements with the Crouch Bowling Club to facilitate public access to the Crouch Bowling Green.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed that the Town Council's website would be updated to signpost potential bowling green hirers to Crouch Bowling Club.

GO09.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO09.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the outlined procedure for public access to the Crouch Bowling Green.

GO10/06/26 South Hill Farm – Farm Objective Plan

The Committee considered report 11/26 presenting the Farm Objective Plan for South Hill Farm for the Committee's information and commenting upon.

The Committee commended the tenant farmer on the Farm Objective Plan – engaging with the values of the Nature Reserve and Seaford Head, showcasing progressive farming and ideas of how to diversify and future-proof the farm.

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

GO11/06/26 Heritage Coast Partnership Proposal

The Committee considered report 18/26 informing councillors of proposals from the Heritage Coast Partnership Group and to approve financial contribution.

Members discussed: serious concerns relating to public engagement not appearing within the process as set out in the report and the critical nature of this; the need for a memorandum of understanding to set out the group's remit and role of the partners, including influence on the final plan prior to adoption; the possibility of approaching other stakeholders (Southern Rail, Brighton & Hove Buses, cyclist groups, and Seaford Chamber of Commerce), and; that the plan is about how visitor levels are managed, rather than encouraging more.

In response to members queries, officers confirmed: that an officer and the former Mayor have been attending meetings to date and will ensure someone is always present from the Town Council; that they will see if there are notes of the meetings that can be shared; that the deadline for the work is ahead of the Sussex Mayoral elections in 2028, and; that the group will be looking at a similar piece of work undertaken in the Peak District and any learning from this.

GO11.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO11.2 It was **PROPOSED** to **APPROVE** the use of Earmarked Reserves to contribute up to £10,000 towards the engagement of a consultant to develop a Visitor Management Plan for the Sussex Heritage Coast, subject to meaningful public engagement being included within the consultant's methodology and carried out prior to beginning Phase 3, and a MOU being established clarifying the Town Council's role within the group and influence on the final version of the plan; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Councillor J Meek

Chair of Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action