



Seaford Town Council

Minutes

Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Committee Meeting

Thursday 10 September 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 C Bristow, S Dubas, S Dunn, L Wallraven, and M Wearmouth

Steve Quayle, Town Clerk

Darryl Keech, Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Peter Coursin, Head of Place

Sharan Brydon, Operations & Facilities Manager

George Raeburn, Senior Committee Clerk

There were 10 members of the public attendance including Shaun Doyle and Alan Flood, both representing Seaford Head Golf Club

GO12/09/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Rutland and I Taylor.

The reasons for absence were approved as follows: Councillors G Rutland (work commitments), and Councillor I Taylor (caring responsibilities).

The Course Manager also conveyed their apologies for the meeting.

GO13/09/26 Disclosure of Interests

Councillor C Bristow clarified that, whilst she works for the South Downs National Park Authority, she is completely blocked from anything relating to Cliff Gardens Project, enabling her to take part in any Town Council discussions and/or votes in relation to the site. This approach has been agreed with Monitoring Officer.

GO14/09/26 Public Participation

Speaker	Statement
Resident A	<i>In relation to agenda item 10, spoke to the Town Council about the National Emergency Briefing. They welcomed the direction of the Town Council's proposed Climate Emergency</i>

	<i>Policy and the three positive commitments within, relating to strengthening councillor and officer knowledge, helping residents to understand the climate emergency, and engaging with residents and stakeholders to achieve this. Expressed how the hottest summer on record makes this feel much closer to home, with the Government asking households and communities to think about preparedness and resilience. Shared some facts in relation to the People's Emergency Briefing film, with over 700 people across the Lewes Constituency having seen this, showing that people are engaged and there is a growing appetite for information. Stressed that this is an opportunity for the Town Council to bring people together, consider the screening and decide what is needed for Seaford.</i>
Town Council Response	The chair thanked the resident for their contribution and confirmed that the screening is very powerful.
<i>Resident B</i>	<i>In relation to agenda item 6, spoke about visitor behaviour, signage, parking and transport at South Hill Barn. With visitor behaviour, expressed concerns around continued littering, drone usage, loud music, and barbeques, and the impact of this on how successfully the Nature Reserve can recover. Queried if there was a timeline for signage being installed on site and whether this would increase awareness of the special nature of the site. Shared concerns around the visibility of the blue signs relating to parking on the bridle way. Queried how the non-compliance of coaches and minibuses with the parking trial was being managed, with this causing the biggest challenges for Chyngton Way.</i>
Town Council Response	The Head of Place thanked the resident for their contribution and confirmed that: • There will be two sets of signage, with one sharing information about the National Nature Reserve and habitats onsite that has been funded and designed by

	the South Downs National Park Authority. Additional signage will be introduced in the coming months • The parking signs align with the Town Council's branding and are designed so as not to be too garish given the sensitivity of the site • Officers have approached specific coach companies to confirm the arrangements onsite, who have confirmed that they will instruct their drivers accordingly • The impact of the parking trial will be assessed across the one-year period, with proposals brought forward for what to do next, including how to address any compliance issues
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GO15/06/26 Golf Course Update Report – September 2026

The Committee considered report 69/26 updating the Committee on progress and actions relating to the Town Council-owned Seaford Head Golf Course.

Members discussed:

- The positive response by the greenkeeping team to the challenging summer, congratulating the mindful approach taken.

Golf Club Representatives shared:

- Concerns around walkers on the course and the lack of signage to advise on safe walking routes. Officers confirmed that there are ongoing discussions around signage on the course, but unfortunately previous signs have been torn down. Officers have sought legal advice to try and obtain a legally correct statement to support additional signage and communications on the golf course and the situation with walkers crossing the golf course (this will include digital communications as well as those with playing golfers).
- That the course is in fantastic condition but that financial investment (as well as time) is needed in the tees due to amount of wear and tear in a small area. Mats could be utilised to allow works to take place on tees.
- An increase in litter in trees and bushes following the removal of all bins onsite apart from the bin at the 13th tee. Officers will look into this.

- Membership has increased predominantly as a result of uncertainty at Peacehaven Golf Club, players swapping between the two Seaford courses, and Seaford Head remaining playable all year round.
- That club members are missing a clubhouse where social events can easily be held, without having to share the space or miss out to larger bookings.

In response to members queries, officers confirmed:

- That, as a result of the limit the Town Council has on how much water can be used from the borehole it was necessary to use some mains water during the summer. Officers are therefore looking at applying for a licence for a greater extraction limit from the borehole in preparation for repeated periods of hot weather in future years.

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

GO16/09/26 Open Spaces & Climate Action Update Report – September 2026

The Committee considered report 70/26 providing an update on progress and actions relating to the Town Council's open spaces and climate actions.

The Head of Place provided a verbal update on the licence for the bollards at the Martello gravel strip, which is due imminently, and the energy audit contract due to be awarded next week.

Members discussed:

- Recent positive feedback from the East Blatchington Pond Society in relation to the Town Council's support and work during the summer.
- Being pleased to see that the existing fixings will be used at South Hill Barn for cycle parking.

In response to members queries, officers confirmed:

- That the Town Council was not involved in the hose pipe ban exemption request for Cliff Gardens, this was obtained by Seaford Community Partnership to ensure that the newly planted beds could establish the required root structure. Going forwards, these are drought-resistant plants so future hose pipe ban exemptions should not be required.
- Car Park Attendants at South Hill Barn are only working weekends, Bank Holidays, and school holidays and provide the data captured to Town Council officers.
- That the Town Council installed bollards at the exit to the High & Over car park to prevent parking on the verge and that these have been reduced in height to resolve visibility problems.
- That officers do a site visit when there is camping on Town Council land to ask the campers to move on, including most recently at Martello Fields, although there is a limit on the actions that can be taken when people are camping on Martello Fields. Officers will discuss this further

with Lewes District Council to ascertain if the byelaw onsite enables any additional courses of action to protect Seaford's green spaces.

- That East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have confirmed that the improvement works to the chalk path on the Seaford Head Estate are hoped to be carried out next year, when financial and staffing resources are available. They have however agreed that the work needs doing and broadly what needs to be done.
- That officers will speak with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor about options for improving the muddy entrances to The Crouch, likely through the laying of bark.
- That following clarifications with the preferred engineer, the design of options for Hope Gap Steps is in progress and will be reported back to Full Council.

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

GO17/09/26 Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Update Report – September 2026

The Committee considered report 73/26 updating the committee on work being undertaken at Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve.

Members thanked Sussex Wildlife Trust's volunteers for all the work being doing, the impact of which is very visible.

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

GO18/09/26 Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Finance Report for the period of 1 April to 31 July 2026

The Committee considered report 74/26 presenting details of the income and expenditure position for this Committee for the period 1 April to 31 July 2026.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed:

- That the Seaford Head Estate 'Parking Income' relates to income from the South Hill Barn pay & display parking trial and that the 'SHB Parking Expense' relates to the Car Park Attendants.
- That painting works are scheduled for the seafront telescope.

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

GO19/09/26 Update on the Golf Course 17th and 18th Tee Project

The Committee considered report 75/26 updating the Committee on the progress made and next steps of the redevelopment of the 17th green and 18th tee.

The Head of Place provided a verbal update that the public consultation on the proposals and relocating of the footpath is live and due to close on 13 September, after which all feedback will be reviewed.

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

GO20/09/26 Crouch Bowling Club Request – Replacement Fence

The Committee considered report 76/26 presenting proposals received from the Crouch Bowling Club for determination by this Committee.

The Head of Place provided a verbal update in relation to the need for the Town Council to get legal advice due to the covenant onsite, should the proposals be approved.

Members discussed:

- The desire to work with the Club to explore options onsite. Members queried whether any other solutions had been explored, including working with the local ward councillors or Police to look at options for stopping anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Furthermore, that this links to a wider issue of anti-social behaviour across the town and the need to look at this more holistically, seeking support from external agencies and partners.
- Concerns around setting a precedent with the perceived privatisation of public space and The Crouch being listed as a Local Green Space in the Seaford Neighbourhood Plan.

In response to members queries, officers confirmed that anyone can apply for planning permission on a site, it need not be the landowner.

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

GO20.2 It was **PROPOSED to REJECT** the proposal from the Crouch Bowling Club for a replacement fence with lockable gates, subject to the necessary permissions being obtained; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

(8.15pm – five members of the public exited the meeting)

GO21/09/26 Review of the Climate Emergency Policy

The Committee considered report 77/26 facilitating the review of the proposed Climate Emergency Policy and recommendation of this to Full Council for adoption.

Members discussed:

- The Town Council's role in helping residents to understand the climate emergency and this being a facilitative role, rather than directly educational.

In response to members queries, officers confirmed:

- That the proposals being considered include delegated power to the Town Clerk to update the Climate Action Plan within the Climate Emergency Policy once the new plan has been agreed.

GO21.1 It was **PROPOSED to AMEND** the Section 3.1 of the draft Climate Emergency Policy, replacing the fifth bullet point with: 'facilitate public knowledge and understanding of climate emergency, to create buy in for personal actions, and lead by example through Council policies and activities'; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

GO21.2 It was **RESOLVED to NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO21.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that Full Council adopts the amended Draft Climate Emergency Policy.

(8.30pm – five members of the public exited the meeting)

GO22/09/26 Exclusion of the Press & Public

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public **BE EXCLUDED** from the meeting during the discussion on the next item of business for the reasons as set out on the agenda.

(8.31pm to 8.35pm – a short break was held)

GO23/09/26 Grounds Maintenance Contract – Lots 2 & 3 EXEMPT

The Committee considered report 91/26 seeking the Committee's approval to trial the East Sussex County Council's Urban Grass Verge Cutting offer for 2027 (Lot 2), followed by a review in autumn 2027. In addition, to inform the Committee of officers' actions related to Lot 3 (Seaford in Bloom).

GO23.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

GO23.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the approval of a trial of East Sussex County Council's Urban Grass Verge Cutting offer for 2027 for six cuts, followed by a review in autumn 2027.

GO23.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**, subject to Full Council approval, that officers will seek a new provider for the Lot 3 contract via a three quote process, pursuant to Financial Regulations.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Councillor J Meek

Chair of Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action