

## HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

### Meeting of the LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Held WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

#### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Woodhead (Chair), Harvey, Hoyle and Macdonald

**ABSENT:** Councillors Boggis, Morse and Guilfoyle.

**ALSO:** One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: E Andrews

Local Environment & Allotments Officer: G Muir

**482. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morse.

**483. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS` INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING.**

There were no members interests reported at this meeting.

**484. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 29 October 2025**

There were no matters arising.

**485. COMMUNICATIONS**

One communication was received via email as below:

a) Resident Email 'Climate' focus of the Committee

Members discussed the previous Climate Action Plan (2022 – 23) and agreed that many of the local level actions have now been

achieved.

The background of the Committee's climate focus was discussed, including the Committee's renaming around the time the new Officer was recruited to reflect the Council's priorities. The Officer role title change from *Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Coordinator* to *Local Environment & Allotments Officer* emphasises a more specific focus on duties, particularly allotment management. Members agreed that since the issue of the 2022-23 Plan, there have been no decisive shifts away from the Town Council's climate objectives. Rather, a sharper focus has been reified - on the Council's limited but realistic local remit, focusing on practical action for Hebden Royd residents while supporting wider climate initiatives at a local level.

**RESOLVED:** To review the 2022 – 23 Climate Action Plan, in alignment with the Committee's and wider Council's current objectives and to decide on actions as appropriate.

**486.**

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Members received an updated budget for the current year, and the budget for forthcoming period 2026-27 was also noted and discussed.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information and to consider the budget allocation for *Active Travel* at the next Committee meeting as a stand-alone agenda item.

**487.**

**PROPOSED PURCHASES**

Members considered the purchase of equipment to support the safe and effective delivery of local environment projects and events.

a) HRTC Van lease

The proposal to lease a van for the effective delivery of HRTC local environment activities across Hebden Royd was discussed.

**RESOLVED:** Detailed costings are to be presented to the Committee at the next meeting exploring: different lease length options ie. 12 months – 3 years, electric and petrol/diesel options, and a chart of projected usage across HRTC activities.

**488. CALDER HOLMES COURTS RENOVATION**

Members received an update on the project's current status from the Chair. It was noted that CMBC does not have the level of funding required available to support works and that the projected renovation costs far exceed the Committee's budget. The project is now being taken on by the Friends of Calder Holmes Park, as the group is suitably positioned to secure funding from alternative sources.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**489. POTENTIAL LEASE OF CALDER VALLEY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST HIGH STREET SITE**

Members received an update from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer on the proposal for HRTC to support the management of the High Street site working in partnership with CMBC. An agreement is yet to be concluded between CMBC and CVCLT, therefore until that time, no actions will be agreed or undertaken.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information, and confirm Hebden Royd Town Council's provisional interest in supporting the management of the High Street site, working in partnership with CMBC.

**490. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW**

Members received updates on the following projects from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer:

a) High Hirst Volunteer Report

Volunteer attendance for the last quarter alongside the activities delivered were reported as per enc. 9a).

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

b) Conservation grazing

The ponies at High Hirst, having effectively grazed the site, are due to leave within the next month. Issues around the public feeding the animals have recently arisen, and it has been noted that more

widely circulated comms explaining why this isn't appropriate or good for the animals will accompany the scheme next year.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

c) Criminal Damage of fencing

The damage of fencing at High Hirst was reported to the police and a crime number received. A temporary fix is in place while a more permanent solution is found.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

**491.**

**ALLOTMENTS**

Members received updates on the following projects from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer:

a) High Hirst Allotments

A number of tenants attended the last quarterly work day, and it is hoped more may attend next time. Some allotment payments remain outstanding. Further reminders will be issued ahead of eviction notices should the fees remain unpaid by the deadline in April. Members noted that there is a wait list for plots, and that allotments are in demand in the locality.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

b) Banksfield Tree Works update

The Banksfield tree works are now completed, although plans regarding the plugging at the site were changed owing to poor weather conditions and the nature of how the works have been undertaken. An alternative re-growth management strategy to plugging will now take place, although this process will take longer requiring more Officer attention at the site.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

The Committee acknowledged the Local Environment & Allotments Officer for their work and thanked them for their contributions to date, highlighting the positive environmental outcomes achieved.

**492. OTHER PROJECTS & UPDATES**

Members received updates on the following projects from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer:

a) Hanging Baskets

The hanging basket programme is currently being planned, with the call out to businesses due in May, and basket installation in June.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

b) Hebden Royd Green Network, first Meeting with Projects & Events Committee.

The meeting took place on 24 January, with representatives from seven community and charity groups, CMBC, HRTC and Blackshaw Parish Officers, to discuss local environmental initiatives and explore forming a collaborative network. Attendees expressed a keen interest in the network idea, alongside another meet up to start exploring ways the groups can work together.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

c) Next Green Network event

The date of 31 March has been identified for the next Green Network meeting, with a focus on HRTC providing a platform for the groups to information share and reach potential volunteers for their respective causes.

**RESOLVED:** To note the information.

d) Spring Clean Report

Following a review of the Hebden Royd Spring Clean programme, the Council will adopt a more active role in coordinating and

delivering targeted litter picks through officer-led organisation. This approach aims to increase capacity and ensure efforts are focused on areas of greatest need, working in partnership with local community groups. Planning is underway for litter picks in Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd, and residents and groups are encouraged to report areas with significant litter to inform planned routes. The Committee expressed its thanks to community groups for their ongoing support and commitment to improving the local environment and welcomed their participation in upcoming events, with further details to be shared in due course.

**RESOLVED:** Litter picks are to be delivered during the Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean 2026 period. Officer time and practical support will be provided, however, previous community donations for litter picking activities will no longer be available. Members noted that financial assistance for community groups remains accessible through the Council's Community Funding programme.

The change in the approach to the programme is to be communicated to community groups directly via email ahead of the announcement of the upcoming litter pick sessions.

#### e) Community Bulb Planting Report

Following a review of the Hebden Royd Community Bulb Planting programme, the Council will adopt a more active role in coordinating and delivering targeted planting to improve the biodiversity of the area through officer-led organisation.

This refocus is specifically aimed at improving the biodiversity of the local environment by limiting the number of non-native, mono-culture species being planted, and maximising opportunities to encourage native, pollen and nectar rich species to repopulate.

**RESOLVED:** Non-native horticultural flower bulbs will no longer be

supplied to community groups, rather groups will be encouraged and supported to maintain bulbs that have already been planted by lifting, splitting and re-planting, as well as introducing alternative native species such as wildflowers.

The change in the approach to the programme is to be communicated to community groups directly via email in due course.

f) CMBC Site Management Collaboration

The Local Environment & Allotments Officer recommends supporting CMBC Countryside and Woodlands team to manage sites in Hebden Royd by delivering volunteer activities to contribute towards CMBC's climate and biodiversity targets.

**RESOLVED:** To support CMBC's Countryside and Woodlands team to proactively manage sites within Hebden Royd to meet the shared climate and biodiversity targets of both organisations. Projects will be considered as they arise.

**493. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK**

Members discussed the CEP in relation to the below and the upcoming CEP consultation phase, currently proposed for April 2026.

- a) Minutes from the Combined Parishes Meeting 02.01.2026
- b) Slides to accompany the Minutes from the Combined Parishes Meeting 02.01.2026

**RESOLVED:** An additional meeting of the Committee to be called ahead of the April CEP Consultation, to discuss this singular issue, so that appropriate actions can be taken. Dates to be circulated.

**494. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no resolution to exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

The meeting finished at 9:02pm.