

16 September 2026

To Members of the Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE COMMITTEE
(Cllrs: Woodhead, Guilfoyle, Macdonald, Parry & Trickett)
which will be held in the Greenwood Room in Hebden Bridge Town Hall on
Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 7:30pm



Emma Green
Clerk to the Council

This meeting is open to the public unless Members decide to exclude the public for any exempt or confidential item of business.

AGENDA

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.

2. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9 JUNE 2026

To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 9 June not itemised on this agenda.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

To receive communications and decide on appropriate actions.

a) Peat Alliance Changes to Planning Act 2008

5. BUDGET UPDATE

To receive the budget update and decide on actions as appropriate (enc).

6. PROPOSED PURCHASES

To consider the purchase of equipment to support the safe and effective delivery of local environment projects and events.

a) HRTC Van lease, insurance quotes (enc).
b) Timber

7. ACTIVE TRAVEL

To consider opportunities for Active Travel projects and decide on appropriate actions.

8. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW

To receive an update on the following projects and decide on appropriate actions:

- a) High Hirst Woodmeadow Volunteer Review – Summer 2026 (enc).
- b) Learn to Scythe 2027 Proposal (enc).
- c) Learn to Scythe training quote (enc).

9. ALLOTMENTS

To receive an update on the following projects and decide on appropriate actions (enc).

- a) High Hirst Allotments
- b) Banksfield Allotments

10. OTHER PROJECTS & UPDATES

To receive an update on the following projects:

- a) Hanging Baskets
- b) Hebden Royd Green Network & potential youth engagement with Calderdale Ecological Land Trust (CELT) courses.

11. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK

To consider any matters relating to the CEP and decide on actions as appropriate.

12. MYTHOLMROYD BEACON

To consider next steps in relation to the beacon at Mytholmroyd and decide on actions as appropriate.

13. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

To consider next steps regarding the development of a plan and decide on appropriate actions

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve to exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of items of a confidential nature.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE COMMITTEE
held TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2026 at
GREENWOOD ROOM, HEBDEN BRIDGE TOWN HALL

PRESENT

Councillors Guilfoyle, Parry and Woodhead

Deputy Clerk Ebony Andrews

HRTC Officer Gareth Muir

ABSENT

Councillors Trickett and Macdonald

Also One member of the public

MINUTES

26(LE)065	1. TO ELECT A CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR FOR THE PERIOD 26/27 RESOLVED: that Cllr Woodhead be Chair of the Local Environment & Climate Committee for 2026 - 27. RESOLVED: that Cllr Guilfoyle be Deputy Chair of the Local Environment & Climate Committee for 2026 - 27.
26(LE)066	2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS. Apologies were received from Cllrs Trickett who is overseas on business, and Cllr Macdonald who has a meeting clash. RESOLVED: To note apologies and approve the reasons for absence.
26(LE)067	3. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING. There were no members interests reported at this meeting.
26(LE)068	4. TERMS OF REFERENCE Members reviewed and discussed the terms of reference at length. An amendment to Scope, section 5.2, was recommended.

	RESOLVED: To accept the Terms of Reference, with the following amendment to 5.2: <i>To advise the Council on environmental and climate matters arising from the Council's functions and activities, including the environmental impact of Council services, buildings, assets, procurement, transport, and operational practices, and opportunities to improve sustainability and reduce carbon emissions across Council operations.</i>
26(LE)069	5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18 MARCH 2026 RESOLVED: To note the information
26(LE)070	6. COMMUNICATIONS Member received the following communication: a) Resident Email Bluebells The Local Environment & Allotments Officer advised that we are not aware of any Spanish Bluebells on any HRTC sites. Should any be identified, advice will be sought from the appropriate authorities to remove them. Equally, members and the Officer agreed that no Spanish Bluebells will be planted on any HRTC sites. RESOLVED: The Local Environment & Allotments Officer will respond outlining the Committees approach, as described above.
26(LE)071	7. BUDGET UPDATE Cllrs received a budget update from the Officer and Deputy Clerk. RESOLVED: To note the information
26(LE)072	8. PROPOSED PURCHASES Members considered the following purchase of equipment to support the safe and effective delivery of local environment projects and events. a) HRTC Van lease. Members discussed at length the proposal to lease a van for Council use. The proposal was considered as a means of reducing the use of personal vehicles for Council business and the associated liabilities, while also creating opportunities to support partner organisations and collaborative projects. RESOLVED: A lease of 2 years was recommended, with a view to review usage and vehicle suitability before any renewal takes place.

26(LE)073	9. ACTIVE TRAVEL Cllrs discussed Active Travel and while there are no specific projects on the horizon, agreed to revisit it on future agendas. RESOLVED: To retain Active Travel as an agenda point for future meetings.
26(LE)074	10. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW Cllrs received an update from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer on the following projects and decided on the following actions: a) High Hirst Woodmeadow Volunteer Review – Spring 2026 Members underscored that volunteer engagement looks encouraging - as demonstrated by the hours contributed. Cllrs are also pleased to see new volunteers joining in on the activities. RESOLVED: To note the information. b) Upcoming events – Meadows Day and Haytime Tea Meadows Day on 4 July will incorporate two ecology walks, two local history walks, drystone walling and scything demonstrations and children’s activity supported by DodPod as highlights. Haytime Tea on 26 July will mark the end of the volunteers scything programme for 26 (commencing 5 July) and will be celebrated by music from Hebden Bridge Folk Group and refreshments. RESOLVED: To note the information.
26(LE)075	11. ALLOTMENTS Members received an update from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer on the following projects. a) High Hirst Allotments RESOLVED: To note the information. b) Banksfield Allotments RESOLVED: To note the information. c) High Hirst Allotments DAF Accessibility Audit Members thanked DAF for their contributions. Members were keen

	for the suggested actions to be explored further by the Officer, subject to consideration on a case-by-case basis and within available budget constraints. RESOLVED: for the suggested actions to be explored further by the Officer where appropriate. d) Banksfield Allotments DAF Accessibility Audit Members thanked DAF for their contributions. Members were keen for the suggested actions to be explored further by the Officer, subject to consideration on a case-by-case basis and within available budget constraints. RESOLVED: for the suggested actions to be explored further by the Officer where appropriate.
26(LE)076	12. OTHER PROJECTS & UPDATES Cllrs received an update on the following projects from the Local Environment & Allotments Officer: a) Hanging Baskets The scheme is now underway with hanging baskets being installed. RESOLVED: To note the information. b) Hebden Royd Green Network Following the postponement of the previous event, a revised date of 11 August has been circulated to the Network. A small number of expressions of interest have been received to date. Should sufficient interest be confirmed, the event will proceed as planned. If participation remains limited, further engagement with the group will be undertaken to explore alternative opportunities for involvement. RESOLVED: To note the information. c) Spring Clean 2026 Review Members discussed at length the new scheme and levels of participation noting it was positive to engage with groups from further afield including the Halifax Wandering Wombles. It was highlighted that there remain disproportionate levels of litter in certain areas of Hebden Royd, and that this is a subject that

	requires more focus. RESOLVED: Management of litter in Hebden Royd be raised as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Committee. d) Community Bulb Planting Review RESOLVED: To note the information. e) Mytholmroyd Beacon update Members considered the complexities surrounding the Mytholmroyd beacon and expressed the view that the structure presents a potential liability to the Council. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of control over its use, its location on flammable moorland and grassland, and the significant costs that would be associated with replacing it with a more permanent structure. Members noted that, even if the beacon were replaced, the associated liabilities would remain. As the beacon is an HRTC asset but is situated on private land, Members agreed that the landowner should be identified and engaged in discussions regarding the future of the structure. RESOLVED: The landowner is identified and contacted to understand their position in relation to the beacon and highlight Council concerns. e) CROWS Annual Review 2026 Members expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken by CROWS in our community. RESOLVED: To note the information.
26(LE)077	13. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK Members considered matters relating to the CEP and decided on the following actions: a) CEP Consultation - HRTC Position Statement opposing the proposal has been forwarded to CEP by Cllr Butterick & Harvey on behalf of HRTC. (Minute 547) <i>“Further to a public survey undertaken in 2025 and information made available to the community since that time, Hebden Royd Town Council is committed to stand with the mandate given by its community. The Town Council strongly opposes the development of the Calderdale</i>

	<i>Energy Park on the grounds of destruction of peat, associated flood risks and CO2 emissions. There are many other concerns most notably the impact on the natural habitat and biodiversity of this Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation.”</i> Further documentation from the Peat Alliance, setting out scientific evidence in support of its position and identifying omissions within CEP’s plans, was appended to the above statement. RESOLVED: To note the information
26(LE)078	14. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN Cllrs discussed the Climate Emergency & Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-25 document. Members noted that a number of the achievable objectives contained within the current plan had been delivered. However, it was recognised that the overall scope of the plan was very broad and included areas of responsibility that sit beyond the remit, influence, and capacity of the Town Council. It was agreed that a new working document should be developed to reflect the Council’s more recent focus on the local environment. The revised plan will have a more strategic approach and will concentrate on actions that fall within the Town Council’s sphere of influence and will include more tangible and measurable outcomes. The document will focus on both the Council’s activities and outputs, as well as its internal processes and procedures. RESOLVED: The revised document will be developed through consultation with committees to ensure input from across all committees and will form the basis of a three-year action plan.
26(LE)079	15. 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 during consideration of items of a confidential nature.

Meeting finished at 9:34 pm.

Local Environment & Climate 2026-27

Expenditure	Description	BUDGET 26/27	ACTUAL 26/27	COMMITTED 26/27	TOTAL 26/27	BUDGET 25/26	TOTAL 25/26	BUDGET 24/25	ACTUAL 24/25
LAND & BIODIVERSITY								£ 6,500.00	£ 6,500.00
Meadows Day	Room Hire, Forest School Activities, Ecology/Local History Walk	£ 821.60	£ 715.00		£ 715.00	£ 800.00	£ 466.59	£ -	£ -
Events	Moth Breakfasts, Haytime with Haytime Tea, Bat Walks.	£ 1,100.00	£ 351.96	£ 150.00	£ 501.96	£ 420.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Law Field	Legal Fees	£ 1,027.00			£ -	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Equipment & Tools	For Volunteering	£ 1,500.00	£ 207.08		£ 207.08	£ 20.00	£ 82.30	£ -	£ -
Materials	Replacement trees, gate fixings etc	£ 750.00		£ 420.20	£ -				
Dog Waste Provision	Dog poo bags & dispenser maintenance	£ 1,000.00	£ 881.99	£ -	£ 881.99				
CROWS	Annual Payment	£ 1,500.00		£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00				
ENVIRONMENT									
New Projects	TBC	£ 1,000.00			£ -	£ 7,020.00	£ 7,664.00	£ 1,775.00	£ 8,775.00
Hanging Baskets	Supply/Install/Watering	£ 17,500.00	£ 11,736.00	£3,000.00	£ 14,736.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 16,522.00	£ 7,000.00	£ 6,561.98
Transport	Active Travel - Committee to consider	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00
Green Network	New Project - with P&E	£ 1,000.00		£ 100.00	£ 100.00				
Supporting Outside Bodies	e.g. Supporting Friends CHP	£ 500.00		£ 125.00	£ 125.00				
Youth engagement	TBC	£ 500.00			£ -				
Transport	Van	£ 5,000.00			£ -				
ALLOTMENTS									
Allotment Maintenance	General Maintenance e.g. skips, footpath aggregate	£ 1,000.00	£ 612.50	£ 200.00	£ 812.50	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,537.84	£ 4,000.00	£ 4,000.00
Water	Water at High Hirst	£ 300.00	£ 70.72	£ 80.00	£ 150.72				
Tool Hire	Chainsaw & Brushcutter	£ 500.00	£ 86.73		£ 86.73				
Materials	Paint/Fence Panels	£ 500.00	£ 81.50	£ 400.00	£ 481.50				
Contingency against income	Against income	£ 1,051.40			£ -				
REDUNDANT BUDGET LINES									
Young People/Youth								£ 4,500.00	£ 4,500.00
Buildings & Tech								£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00
Cross Cutting								£ 2,500.00	£ 2,740.00
Power Scythe						£ 1,100.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Scything & Haymaking						£ 1,500.00	£ 799.14	£ -	£ -
Friends of High Hirst						£ 150.00	£ 130.00	£ -	£ -
Site Surveys						£ 300.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Coppicing						£ 500.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
	TOTAL	£ 36,550.00	£ 14,743.48	£ 5,975.20	£ 20,298.48	£ 25,760.00	£ 29,701.87	£ 33,275.00	£ 40,076.98
	TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED	£ 36,550.00					£ 25,760.00		£ 33,275.00
INCOME									
Scything Course							£ 240.00		£ 240.00
Hanging Baskets (based on £60)	LESS INCOME	£ 6,450.00			£ -		£ 5,912.00		
Allotments		£ 2,000.00			£ -		£ 1,242.80		
Coppice Products		£ 100.00	£ 30.00		£ 30.00				
Grants									
	HRTC BUDGET AVAILABLE				£ 16,281.52		£ 3,452.93		-£ 6,561.98

ACCRUED AMOUNTS
Committed expenditure not invoiced to accrue in to 2026-27 budget

High Hirst Woodmeadow Spring 2026 Volunteer Review – June, July & August 2026

Number of volunteer workdays: 12

Number of individual volunteers: 29

Number of new volunteers: 17

Number of volunteer hours contributed: 246

Volume of weeds pulled: approx. 4,125 litres

Number of hay bales made: 73.5

Area of grassland mown: 7,750 m²

Length of Footpath maintained: 27 metres

Income generated from the sale of hay bales: £30.00

Number of hay bales donated to Full of Joy Animal Sanctuary: 61

Economic value of volunteer contribution (number of total volunteer hours multiplied by the Minimum wage, £12.71 per hour): £3,126.66

Events

Meadows Day 2026 - 52 attendees

Haytime Tea 2026 - 30 attendees

Bat Walk 2026 – 13 attendees

To Members of the *Local Environment and Climate Committee*

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 Purpose of the report to consider the funding of a 'Learn to Scythe' course in July 2027 delivered by Steve Tomlin
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The officer recommends HRTC funds eight places for young people who are residents of Hebden Royd to learn to scythe in July 2027
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3. Background

- 3.1 High Hirst Woodmeadow has several volunteer scythers in the community. To ensure the legacy of the project, training more scythers would be beneficial to keeping this traditional land management practice alive.
- 3.2 HRTC has previously funded 'Learn to Scythe' courses. A course was not organised for 2026 to see the rate of retention from previous years course attendees. Those who participated in the mowing in 2026 had attended the previous 'Learn to Scythe' courses. However, to ensure that new scythers are trained to the same standards it is advised that HRTC fund another 'Learn to Scythe' course, with a focus on younger people (ages 16-25) to upskill and enable them to engage in the project and give them practical land management skills, which could support them into further education, employment and/or training.
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4. Information

- 4.1 **Costs: £1144** for two days training on 8-9th July 2027 for eight participants
- 4.2 Decision to be made along with booking before financial year 2027/28
- 4.3 Once the course is booked to advertise to target demographic within Hebden Royd
- 4.4 Considerations to be made about cost of funding places and possible non-attendance. No subsidised scythe purchase to be offered as in previous years.
- 4.5 Legislation regarding this training is covered by Health and Safety Act 1974 etc. Risk Assessment and Public Liability Insurance to be provided by the trainer – Steve Tomlin

Hebden Royd Town Council Allotments Summer July, August, September 2026 Review

Total number of allotment plots: 50

Number of occupied plots: 49 (3 allocated to the pond at High Hirst, Plot 6 to be cleared on Banksfield)

Number of plot's rents due: 1

Number on waiting list: 26

Number of Notices to Quit letters issued: 2 at Banksfield

Volunteer Workdays: 19th August – High Hirst Allotments, 20th August Banksfield Allotments.

2 Midi size skips filled on both sites.

Tenants' participation in workdays: two tenants on Banksfield none on High Hirst

Tenant hours contributed:

4 hours of vegetation management at Banksfield maintaining adjoining footpath on Royd View for allotment neighbours.