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Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting held in the Anzac Room, Community House on 3rd November 2026 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllr S Griffiths (Chair), Cllr Hart (Vice Chair), Cllr I Sharkey, Cllr Mills, Cllr Gordon-Garrett, Cllr Rosser

Officers: Zoe Polydorou (Meetings & Projects Officer)

2 members of the public were in attendance.

1 ES38 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:30, welcomed members to the Environment and Sustainability committee, apologised for any errors in the agenda, ran through the Civility and Respect statement, explained the fire procedure, reminded committee of the mobile phone protocol, the 3-minute rule, that the meeting was being recorded and to speak up, and asked committee to pause for reflection for 1 minute.

The Chair made the following announcements:-

- 20th November 2026 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Climate Change Film - The People's Emergency briefing (free tickets, online registration).
- 21st November 2026 – Peacehaven Repair Café
- OVCA Training available at Community House in the Charles Neville room (booking by email via ovcatraining@southdown.gov.uk):-

  - Monday 9th November 12:30 – 2:30pm – Ecology and Habitats
  - Monday 16th November 12:30 – 2:30pm – Conservation and planning
  - Monday 23rd November 12:30 – 2:30pm – People, Nature and Climate

2 ES39 PUBLIC QUESTIONS - *There will be a 15-minute period whereby members of the public may ask questions on any relevant Environment & Sustainability matter.*

There was 1 public question.

The public questioner was pleased that the chair and vice chair of the Planning committee were present and raised concern with the decline in hedgehogs, and expressed a need for hedgehog highways for new builds, concern with hedgehog and bonfires, and read out an environmental statement, which members suggested go on the future Green Pages section of the Peacehaven Town Council website.

The questioner advised there was a badger set on the Morrisons development site, and advised there were local groups for wildlife in general but was no sure of a specific one for hedgehogs.

The second questioner suggested that their report at item **ES43** should include a section on hedgehogs.

Cllr Hart suggested a regular animal-related post be put out on Peacehaven Town Council's social media, to which the Meetings & Projects Officer suggested that a report be brought to Committee.

19:44 – The 2 members of public left the meeting.

3 ES40 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Campbell, and Cllr Harman.
The Chair raised that Cllr Campbell had resigned from the Committee.

4 ES41 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest.

5 ES42 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES FROM THE 10TH MARCH 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Sharkey **Seconded by:** Cllr Mills
Committee **resolved** to **agree** to adopt the minutes.
1 member abstained.

6 ES43 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE RECOMMENDATIONS IN A REPORT REGARDING NATURE RECOVERY AND BIODIVERSITY.

It was proposed to agree the requests contained in the report and ask that Officers take them forward to the relevant committees and TFGs:-

- Request Personnel Committee to add a voluntary biodiversity/nature recovery module to the training schedule for all PTC Officers and Councillors (see Appendix B, para 1.1)
- Request Planning Committee to assess biodiversity net gain issues (including how biodiversity net gain monies could be attracted into Peacehaven) and specific habitats/ species recovery measures for comment in Planning Applications (see Appendices B and C)
- Request the biodiversity TFG to urgently meet and bring recommendations back to Committee to move forward with the proposals from OVCA on improving biodiversity in PTC Parks (see Appendix A on PTC Policy, Appendix B para 3.3, Appendices C and D)
- Request Community Engagement Committee to contact residents and PCS with a view to building a team of volunteers for biodiversity protection and regeneration projects (See eg Appendix B, para 2.1 and 2.2)
- Request the Nature Recovery TFG to prepare proposals that would maximise the nature recovery benefit of any sites in the Valley Road that PTC might own in future
- Request the Nature Recovery TFG to make recommendations on the relative prioritisation for action of the potential sites summarised in Appendix C, including liaison with relevant external stakeholders.
- Request the Nature Recovery TFG to consider whether to put forward any further areas to the ESB&HLNRS for designation as areas of potential importance for biodiversity (ACIB)

Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths **Seconded by:** Cllr Hart
Committee **resolved** to **agree** to the proposal.

7 ES44 TO REVIEW & UPDATE THE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED

The Chair suggested that any updates be sent to the Action Plan TFG.

8. ES45 TO AGREE REQUESTS ON ITEMS RELATING TO THIS COMMITTEE WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN

The Chair raised that at the last L&A Committee they put forward items for the E&S Business Plan, that four items were needed, and may be given items in the business plan by other committees.

It was proposed to add Promoting Sustainability, and To Encourage Urban Greening to the E&S Business Plan, with the wording to be decided later.
Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths Seconded by: Cllr Gordon-Garrett
All in **favour**.

The Meetings & Projects Officer advised that she would ask the Town Clerk when the Business Plan TFG would next meet.

The Action Plan was viewed on the screen, to see what could be taken from it to the Business Plan. The Meetings & Projects Officer suggested that items could be prioritised. Cllr Gordon-

Garrett and Cllr Hart opted to be part of the E&S Acton Plan TFG, with the Meetings & Projects Officer to email out proposed meeting dates.

It was proposed to add the discussion of Business Plan items to the Action plan, and arrange an urgent E&S Action Plan TFG.
Proposed by: Cllr Hart Seconded by: Cllr Sharkey
All in **favour.**

9 ES46 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE TOOLS THAT COMMITTEE WILL NEED TO FULFIL OUR TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair expressed frustration of there being no baseline figure for the carbon footprint of Peacehaven Town Council; outlined the report's recommendations; advised that there were finances available for professional fees, where money was available right at the beginning when £10,000 was put away but that it had gradually gone on other measures. They added there could be flexibility with staff numbers who could be trained but that was a discussion for the Personnel committee. Cllr Hart raised importance with following the recommendations.

It was proposed to agree to the recommendations in the report:-

- That Committee recommends to Policy and Finance that expert knowledge be sought to provide a baseline figure for the carbon footprint of Peacehaven Town Council to be funded through the Professional Fees Reserve.
- That a mechanism is found for monitoring the carbon footprint of all areas of Council work.
- That Committee recommends to the Personnel Committee that a member of staff be given the role of working towards our goal of net-zero carbon.

Proposed by: Cllr Hart **Seconded by:** Cllr Mills
All in **favour.**

10 ES47 TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM TASK & FINISH GROUPS (TFGs)

a. Biodiversity Report TFG
The Chair mentioned moving ahead with this in relation to the report within the papers, and having been in contact with a member of the public, and adding them to the TFG.

b. E&S Action plan TFG
As discussed in this meeting.

c. Climate Policy
The Chair expressed that this had not yet been looked at, and the Meetings & Projects Officer reminded committee of the members of the TFG.

The Chair expressed that two TFGs had been accidentally missed off the agenda:-

- **Repair Café TFG**
  Cllr Sharkey updated committee that a meeting of repairers would be scheduled, and that, along with Cllr Hart, had visited, and were impressed by, the Seaford Repair Café. Cllr Hart expressed there were possibly 4 or 5 fixers to-date available for the first Peacehaven Repair Cafe, made a call for tools, and suggested the Meetings & Projects Officer send the requested tools list to all councillors. Cllr Hart also mentioned the café had no available budget and that the Meetings & Projects Officer had suggested an option whereby the Repair Café could be independent of the Council to help with its funding.

- **Improve Our Sea and Shoreline TFG**
  The Meetings & Projects Officer confirmed that an email would be sent out to all councillors inviting them to join the TFG.

11 ES48 TO AGREE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2026 AT 7.30PM

The next meeting was **confirmed** as Tuesday 9th March 2027.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:27