

11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Cllr Collins (in the Chair)

A Collins (P)  
D Eldridge (P)  
J Lloyd (P) nominated replacement

L Fogg Rogers (A)  
S Hancock (A)

Also in attendance: One member of the public.

### **CLIMATE AND NATURE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

#### 119.02/26: Evacuation Procedure

Leave via the fire door and assemble in car park – Noted.

#### 120.02/26: Apologies

Cllrs Hancock & Fogg-Rogers

#### 121.02/26: Declaration of Interests under the Localism Act 2011

None

#### 122.02/26: Public Participation

One member of the public who previously attended joined the whole meeting.

#### 123.02/26: To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were agreed and signed.

#### 124.02/26: Action Update

- **Duck pond**

In the absence of Cllr Hancock, who is leading this, it was agreed that she and the Clerk would sit down and determine based upon the two sets of advice received what should be prioritised given that treatments are needed by mid-march. The Environment Agency findings and the recommendations by a water treatments company must be evaluated to determine best value and approach. The Clerk's experience with previous year's treatments and companies who can do this is essential to provide environmental continuity and outcome effectiveness.

- **Verge at Duck Pond**

Deferred to next Full Council Meeting to agree development of verge. We have missed the window for planting in March, but this can be done at suitable stages during the next year to suit seasonal considerations.

- **UWE relationship**

Cllr Collins has an on-site meeting in Frenchay 17-02-2026 with UWE Environmental Studies head of faculty to determine which of the previously suggested topics to prioritise and assess student response to these topics. Update to follow after this meeting.

- **Watermark Scheme**

Cllrs Collins & Eldridge confirmed that the first public workshop will be held at our 11 March meeting 6.30pm with support from Wessex Water, including a large scale parish map to facilitate key targets. Cllr Eldridge has briefed C&N administrator Louise on the meeting held online with Laura Gowers of WW and the process for claiming grant funds up to £2,000. We are big enough to qualify for Town status, Filton and Emerson's Green parishes nearby are also seeking Watermark status so WW may facilitate combined efforts for all of us together. Cllr Eldridge to

follow up and attend a Watermark training workshop online, he suggests our campaign be titled 'No Butt – Yes Butt'

Further discussions agreed that raffle tickets be given to attendees on 11 March with prizes of a water butt + installation, Winterbourne academy family swim & a WPC 2026 calendar.

- **Cut and Collect – Whiteshill Common and Tuckett Field**

Louise has been in touch with Martyn from Town and Country to book in the Whiteshill cut and collect for this year after the scything workshop. Louise will liaise with Kate on the workshop. Cllr Collins and Louise are meeting with Martyn on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am at Tuckett Field to discuss best approach and get a quoted cost for this year.

- **Work at Monks Pool/Bradley Brook/Newleaze**

Louise will be looking into work at Monks Pool/Bradley Brook over the coming months. She is in conversations about de-silting the pond at Newleaze and is identifying local support groups for these sites.

- **Work at Dingle**

This is part of Louise's remit with Monks Pool/Bradley Brook/Newleaze

- **Frome Valley Voice section**

We are likely to have a page in the FVV quarterly going forward. The first section is ready to go, it just needs approval from councillors. Clerk has sent round – please let her know if you want any changes.

- **Green Film Screening**

Green Film Screening – places are filling up fast.

#### 125.02/26: To discuss the tree planting and care/maintenance programme

- Whiteshill Common – Tree Planting Day (21<sup>st</sup> Feb) all ready to go and agreed this should include maintenance of last year's new trees, one specifically needs urgent attention before spring which was agreed.
- Huckford land – Louise has chased application to Forest of Avon and will report back when response received.
- Woodland Trust Trees – Tree Give-away (14<sup>th</sup> March) - social media has gone out but more details to follow. We can offer free refreshments which would be great. Agreed that pre-ordering trees would be too time consuming. Meeting agreed that a maximum of two trees per family would be provided initially, with a list of email contacts for those needing more to collect after the event to stop the whole supply going too soon. If demand on the day is slower this could be adjusted during the day to save time following up. Notes for guidance on tree planting, care and maintenance will be given to the recipients.

#### 126.02/26: To discuss and agree on Tuckett Field Trusteeship

This was raised when the auditor visited at the end of last year. As the council is the trustee for The Tuckett Memorial Field which is a registered charity we have certain obligations.

All agreed with the suggested governing document drafted by Louise and the trustee meet to be added to 11 March agenda. Cllr Eldridge asked why a trust was necessary? Cllr Collins explained that this field was gifted to the Parish in perpetuity in 1928 by the Fox-Tuckett family and the trust was requested by the donors to protect it from future alternative uses.

Cllr Eldridge felt this might be a consideration for other key parish assets, Cllr Lloyd confirmed that some, like the Recreation Ground, had protective covenants for just that purpose. Cllr Eldridge committed to checking this with the Clerk, Cllr Collins confirmed that Sarah had been checking all WPC ownership documents.

#### 127.02/26: To discuss and agree on lecterns for nature signs

We can make the sign out of 1 large post which costs approx. £30 and one bag of post create to set it in place which costs approx. £5. There are 10 signs so that would be an approx. cost of £350 for materials. The signs will cost approx. £80 to print in size A1 which will cost £800.

So altogether it will cost around £1,150 for all 10 signs, which Kevin can make.

Visual example here;



Some of the lecterns Louise looked at costs this for just one! The cheapest found was around £200 each but that didn't include printing the sign.

Agreed to take this approach based upon our resources and ability to make them.

#### 128.02/26: To update on priority areas on Frome Valley Walkway

Louise attended Frome Forum meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb and Cllr Fogg-Rogers and Louise have been invited to a meeting to discuss this at the end of the month.

Update to follow after this next meeting.

#### 129.02/26: To discuss and agree on whether to have an extra member on the Climate and Nature Committee from April 2026

With the current number of four councillors in the team any absence or need to leave the meeting due to connected interests like FRA, FVEN for example a further member would be helpful. Agreed to move this forwards from start of new council year. The meeting also agreed that inviting other councillors not involved with C&N to attend our meetings as a guest to understand what we do would be beneficial too from next council year.

#### 130.02/26: To update on Biodiversity net gains

Cllr Collins explained that the UWE partnership had highlighted the opportunity to find ways to tap into BNG by using existing WPC land to establish a 'base line' from which BNG contributions could be secured from planning applications (for example) provided a well-researched project backed this up and identified how BNG qualification could be achieved. To look at all aspects of this, by using an area like Frenchay Parklands and the wider Frenchay conservation area, this could be used for research and offer degree students the opportunity to offer WPC a recommended structure to consider from a well researched plan. This is different from the research undertaken by Cllr Eldridge where large corporate bodies can use massive land owning schemes to offer investment with a far more complex BNG premium structure. WPC would be too small for this type of plan.

The meeting with UWE faculty head and Cllr Collins on 17-02 will be used to explore this further and evaluate the chances of success, hopefully some students are keen to pursue this topic as it would be very relevant to their future careers too.

#### 131.02/26: To note any other items from members and administrator.

- Environment Agency employee Volunteer Day in Frenchay – 23 April – Meeting with Cllr Collins, Louise & possibly Kate 27/2 13.30pm
- Event in May at Monks Pool – confirmed as Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May to link in with Winterbourne Medieval Barn and the church also being open. The Barn will be open from 1pm so the rough plan for us is to start at Newleaze in the morning on the Sunday and lead a guided walk to Monks Pool. We can then have something going on at Monks Pool. Not sure what yet – Louise open to ideas please! And time to picnic there. People can then go on to the Barn and the church. The Barn will also be doing nature activities (Hedgehog rescue talks, making insect boxes, bughouse building and hopefully Daisy

from Frampton PC will be running some activities too). The Barn will hopefully be serving tea and coffee for free (and other refreshments will be available to purchase). Louise to confirm. The reason the Barn has so much happening on a free event is because they have some specific funding to use. It would be great if any activities we have going on at Monks Pool can complement what the Barn has going on and duplicate. Something watermark related would be great. Louise to investigate further.

- Festival of Nature – grant of up to £100 available for an event. Louise needs to apply by 1<sup>st</sup> March. If you have any ideas please let her know.
- Veolia funding – Please let Louise know if you have any ideas for what we could apply for. The grant options are:

### **Community Grants**

Our Community Grant Scheme supports projects that are aiming to improve an indoor or outdoor community space.

Projects should: encourage community action and wellbeing; be inclusive and accessible; promote sustainability; and protect nature.

### **Habitat and Biodiversity Grants**

Our Habitat & Biodiversity Grant Scheme funds projects that improve natural habitats, creating healthy environments for native species.

These projects should aim to protect biodiversity and create sustainable, carbon-neutral spaces.

Meeting Concluded: 8.05pm