

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

Climate Change Working Group

Notes of meeting held on 19 January 2026
4.04pm –5.00pm

In attendance:

Councillors: J Fradgley (Chair), Petrovic, Rashwan, Duck

Officers: Town Clerk, Business Support Officer

External: David Curtis (SDC), Stephen Norrie (Net Zero)

Apologies: Coles (Vice-Chair)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from the Vice-Chair.

2. Disclosures of Interests

None were declared.

3. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 29 September 2025

It was proposed, seconded and

Agreed: That the Minutes the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 29 September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4. Clopton allotment/land purchasing

Cllr Petrovic provided a summary of the project to date:

A parcel of land behind Tesco in Clopton was identified as a potential allotment/community growing site. Initial approaches indicated the land was previously held by the local authority, then transferred to Orbit and subsequently sold to the current private owner.

The owner purchased the land with an expectation of future development; however, access via Tesco is not available, and alternative access via Justice Avenue is pedestrian-only.

The land area was stated as approximately 0.58 acres. Indicative agricultural value was discussed (approximately £9,500 per acre). A broad indicative

valuation range (circa £20,000+) was referenced, which is significantly below the asking price previously indicated (approx. £90,000–£95,000).

Stratford Town Trust currently manages 114 allotments with a waiting list of 21 and an estimated two-year wait for a plot. The Town Trust have indicated additional allotments would be helpful and offered advice/support if the project proceeds.

Stephen Norrie (Net Zero) summarised results from the Proposal for Clopton allotments consultation report. 88.5% of respondents felt that turning the land into allotments would benefit the area. Around 71 people indicated interest in having a plot. The site may accommodate around 16 half-plots.

Strong interest was recorded for wider community uses:

- Growing/gardening workshops: 92.3% interested
- Social events: 53.8%
- Craft activities: 50.5%
- Children's activities: 46.2%

Orbit have indicated potential interest in contributing funds, noting their properties border the access route. David Currie (SDC) advised that SDC may have relevant funding capacity via a climate change pot. However, a clearer picture of the purchase price and infrastructure costs were required.

It was noted that allotments sit naturally within the Town Council's role as allotment authority; however, an allotment management group would be required to manage day-to-day operations, insurance, and tenancy arrangements. CIL funding is applicable to support this project.

ACTIONS:

- Cllr Petrovic to follow up with Orbit after their meeting on 27 January 2026 to seek clearer information on potential commitment.
- Cllr Petrovic to investigate constraints relating to the electrical substation and implications for site use/design.
- David to raise the project at the next SDC climate change group and explore the potential for SDC contribution via the relevant climate change funding.
- Town Council representative to prepare a formal letter to Tesco seeking written confirmation regarding future access/road provision.

5. Climate Public Meeting and Exhibition

The Climate Exhibition (14 March 2026) would showcase key climate-related work delivered by the Town Council alongside promotion of the small grants scheme, aligning with the Great Big Green Week in June 2026.

ACTION:

- The Chair and Cllr Petrovic to be event leads.

6. STC Website - Small Awards Grant and Biodiversity Policy

The Business Support Officer summarised progress on the energy saving opportunities audit for the Town Hall, including completed actions and items in progress.

It was noted that the biodiversity policy has been approved, and the small awards grant was expected to be approved at the next Community Services and Environment meeting.

The grant scheme will be promoted once formally approved and published on the website with a rolling deadline.

ACTION:

- All Cllrs to read the Audit of Energy Saving Opportunities document and send feedback to the Business Support Officer.

7. Solar Panels for the Town Hall – update

An update was given on progress, highlighting that confirmation of the roof and structural position was required before decisions can be finalised.

Delays in receiving roof reports were raised as a concern, along with asbestos as a complicating factor requiring appropriate advice. It was agreed to progress using the Council's primary structural advice, with the option to seek additional input if needed.

8. Budget

Items dependent on budget approval, such as the small awards grant, will progress once approved at the next Town Council meeting.

9. AOB

The Chair discussed the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and biodiversity evidence.

It was noted that national planning policy updates mean the NDP will not be in a position for specific consultation until around June. In the meantime, the focus will be on data gathering.

Biodiversity evidence was highlighted as a key area where the working group can help shape future policy direction. For example, biodiversity corridors, green pathways, reduced weedkiller use, and long-term approaches.

The Chair also gave sincere thanks to the Business Support Officer for her support and dedication to the working group.

10. Date of next meeting – 16 March 2026, 4pm, Teams Meeting