



## THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 7:30pm at Council Chamber, Town Hall

Members present:

Councillors

Danny Bonnett (Chair)  
Chris Bloor (Vice Chair)  
Chris Rowe  
Christine Carter  
Kath Greenman  
Maggie Tyrell

Non-councillors

Geraldine Barnes (Thornbury in Bloom)

In attendance:

Sharon Gardham (Climate and Nature Officer)  
Will Hallam (Senior Project Manager, Department for Place, South Gloucestershire Council)

Members absent:

Non-Councillors

Ella Wiggans (Sustainable Thornbury)  
Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers)  
Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury)

**CN2526.26 To note any apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were noted from Ella Wiggans (Sustainable Thornbury), Emma Young (Plastic Free Thornbury) and Guy Rawlinson (Holy Mowers).

**CN2526.27 To receive any members' declaration of interest.**

No declarations of interest were made by members.

**CN2526.28 To receive any representations from the public relating to items on the agenda.**

There were no representations from the public.

**CN2526.29 To approve and sign the minutes of the Climate and Nature Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2025.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee held on 21 October 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

**CN2526.30 To receive a presentation from South Gloucestershire Council on proposed improvements to the Streamside Walk.**

Following a presentation from Will Hallam of South Gloucestershire Council on proposed improvements to the Streamside walk, the following were noted:

- The committee noted that any replacement surfaces should be permeable and durable to prevent flooding and minimise future path degradation.
- The committee considered the need for lighting in places along the footpath and discussed the requirement to balance the needs of people using the path (in terms of safety and accessibility) and the needs of wildlife, in

particular bats. A suggestion was made for seasonal lighting which could be switched off when bats are awake and using the streamside corridor.

- A suggestion was made that a volunteering or 'Friends of' Streamside group would be desirable once the improvements have been made to ensure effective ongoing management of the stream and footpaths.
- The codesign process for the Streamside Walk project would benefit from the formation of a temporary, informal working party comprised of councillors and other interested parties. WH noted that this would need to take place rapidly in January and February to support project timescales.

**CN2526.30.01:** SG to contact those who may be interested in taking part in the codesign process, including committee members, to gain expressions of interest and to pass the details of interested parties to WH so virtual meetings can be organised.

**CN2526.30.02:** SG to pass the above request for codesign participants to Wendy Sydenham to pass on to members of the Open Spaces Committee.

**CN2526.31 To consider TTC participation in the Watermark Town Scheme.**

Note: this agenda item was moved to follow the presentation regarding the Streamside project.

It was RESOLVED to ratify the discussions that took place at the Thriving Nature working group to proceed with submitting an expression of interest in participating in the programme and work towards gaining Watermark Town status if we are offered the opportunity to do so.

If we are successful in gaining a place on the programme, the plan for public engagement will be discussed at the Thriving Nature working group in January, with a proposal to be brought to the Climate and Nature Committee in February. If we are not successful, we will independently plan engagements on water-related subjects in the same manner.

**CN2526.32 To receive an update on the Tiny Forest feasibility study.**

It was RESOLVED to remove the following sites from consideration for a Tiny Forest:

- Land behind Severn View Family Practice. MT confirmed this site was earmarked for other purposes so could not be considered.
- Land behind Paula's Salon. This site was considered too small for the establishment of the Tiny Forest.
- Badger Road Country Park. This estate is already well used and developed for wildlife.

It was RESOLVED that the following sites be subject to further investigation:

- Barley Fields estate, land behind Castle Court Car Park, Tarmac off Easton Hill Road

**CN2526.32.01:** SG get in touch with schools local to the final shortlisted sites to gauge their interest in participating in a Tiny Forest project and report results to the February Climate and Nature Committee.

**CN2526.32.02:** MT to investigate whether there are any current Section 106 plans for the site at Barley Fields that may make the establishment of a Tiny Forest unfeasible.

**CN2526.33** **To consider options for a decarbonisation roadmap and comms plan.**

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the decarbonisation road map and comms plan as suggested and make discussion of its content a standing agenda item on the Thriving Nature working group.

**CN2526.34** **To note planned in person events for the first four months of 2026.**

Planned events for the first four months of 2026 were **NOTED**.

**CN2526.34.01:** All committee members to let SG know if they would like to help run one or both bird box building sessions on Saturday 14 February (10.30am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 2pm).

**CN2526.35** **To note that the deadline for submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda is Tuesday 3 February 2026.**

The deadline for the submission of items for inclusion on the next agenda was **NOTED**.

**CN2526.36** **To note the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee is Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 7.30pm.**

The date of the next meeting of the Climate and Nature Committee was **NOTED**.

The next Thriving Nature Working Group takes place on Tuesday 27 January at **7.00pm**.