

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 10am at the Town Hall

Notes

Item	Subject	Details
1	Present	Cllrs; Goldsmith (Chair), Hurr, Miller, Wells, Flunder
2	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	NIL
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	To note the minutes of the previous meeting - notes from February 2026. Noted.
4	Standing Orders- public section.	Nil
5	Environmental matters –	<p><i>Landscape project North Parade</i> – The cttee met with ESC Jo Chapman and consultant Jo Philips regarding the scope of the project/ ideas/ suggestions and how the VESS monies could assist with the project. (VESS has been confirmed by economic development as being appropriate for the scheme).</p> <p>Main suggestions to add colour/ interest to North Parade include landscaping, appropriate planting, sculptures, art, whilst at East Cliff ‘musical railings’ might be appropriate and for the area by the Dunes a ‘Southwold photo’ piece of art. All to be based on a Nautical theme.</p> <p>ESC owns this piece of land but are not going to invest in it, and have agreed that subject to the appropriate licensing, STC could carry out a project on the area. The site could be considered by town council for transfer under LGR.</p> <p>Action - Babbacome have carried out a similar project to the above and information about their project will be circulated.</p> <p>Action – response to be sent to Jo Philips advising that members would like to go to the next stage of a project plan for the whole area and a landscaping plan for the initial phase.</p> <p>It was agreed by all to take the project to the next stage and request Jo Philips to develop a landscaping scheme. At the same time the cttee will carry out research on sculptures/art/ ‘Southwold photo’ to add to the project plan.</p> <p><i>Prom/ cliffs</i> – There have been no timelines provided/ milestones for the stabilisation of the cliff. A seating area has now been deemed unsafe and is fenced off. There has also been some movement around the slabs of the Kilcock toilets which ESC is dealing with.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the cliff structure, and it was acknowledged that a combination of the vegetation, pest control, planting, and natural movement is making the cliffs difficult to manage.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the pests have a natural food source in the mussels under the beach huts and that this does not help ESC deal with the problem. ESC is changing bait to help the controls.</p> <p>It was suggested that ESC be asked to present their report/ plans for the cliff – and the cttee could then also explain their project plans for the cliff top.</p> <p>Action – meeting to be arranged.</p>

		<p><i>Marshes</i> Discussion about the various stakeholders with interest in the marshes and how they would like them managed. As landowner STC needs to comply with the requirements of the legislative bodies including Natural England and SSI, whilst the tenants also have to comply with these bodies. Discussion about responsibility for raising/ lowering the sluices. It was suggested and agreed to request a discussion with Natural England/ SSSI over future management, to which the individual tenants could also be invited. Action – meeting to be arranged. (Separately, a resident has invited members, as residents, to learn about the wildlife which can be seen on the marshes – for individuals to consider).</p> <p><i>Ferry Road garden</i> – Volunteers have spoken about their desire for a gate into the garden from the footpath by the steps. The garden was not designed to have access from this area – with fencing being placed there to deter deer/ rabbits and for the accessible entrance to be from the Ferry Road side. The cttee confirmed that access was not a requirement / feature to be supported. Action – to take out the steps that have been laid and to ensure that the fencing is put back as originally designed.</p> <p>Planting for Ferry Rd Garden – a resident volunteer has provided some details of plants which would work well within the area. Action – quotes to be obtained for the plants.</p>
6	Ongoing Leisure and Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Town Sign repairs</i> – new sign is on target to be ready May 2026. Photos have been circulated to members of progress to date. • <i>Seeding at Klondyke</i> – to be carried out again Spring 2026. Cllr Hurr, Cllr Miller and Cllr Goldsmith offered to put the seed in. <i>Action</i> – more grass seed to be obtained. Cost approved from Land E budget up to £100. • <i>Play area updates</i>. Tibbys and Klondyke remedial works have been carried out. The adult gym equipment has been removed as previously agreed. <i>Action</i> - A small gap has appeared on the skatepark. Wheelscape are aware and have authorised Cllr Hurr to carry out some sealant works on their behalf and have confirmed to STC that the warranty will be unaffected. • <i>Community Self Help scheme</i> – the items requested have been signed off by SCC for full refund and this has been received. Equipment has been collected by SCC officer W Saunders and will be delivered to the Town Hall in due course. • CCTV - police have advised where they would like extra cameras to be placed. The council CCTV provider has visited the sites and provided a summary for the cttee. Costs; approx. £4k for Ferry Rd at RNLI premises, £4k for Pier Ave/ North Parade at Putting Green, £3k for Mights Rd, and £3k to improve Wi fi signal to Town hall. Total £14k from STC budget £25K. Agreed to recommend. <p>Claim to be made to the ESC High Street Security Improvement Fund for the CCTV to be based around North Prade/ Pier Ave.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Box Up</i> – grant received from ESC which will virtually cover the costs. It has been confirmed that no power is required for the unit. <i>Action</i> – Contact to be made with Box Up to organise. • <i>TIC/ Digital Screen update</i> – The CCF revenue grant will cover the costs of a window digital screen for the TIC to display a map of Southwold (as a map has been the most requested item at the TIC over the past 12 months). Cost of map from Spring £350 / cost of new screen £3k – to be paid from CCF Revenue – all agreed to recommend. • <i>Changing Places facility</i> – ESC has some funding to provide a ‘Changing Place’ facility in Southwold – possible venues are next to the existing toilets at Pier or Ferry Road. ESC will keep STC updated.
7	Finance – budget – quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ESC Visitor Economy Support Scheme</i> – project in relation to creating art/ sculpture trail along North Parade to join up with the existing sculpture trail. See agenda item 5 above.
8	Events To consider	<p><i>Heritage Open Day events</i> September 2026. Several organisations attended an introductory event at the Town Hall where the basis of Heritage Open Days was explained by the regional Co – Ordinator John Adams. Several of the organisations present expressed interest in taking part. Others to be approached include Model Yacht Association, and Golf Club – Derek Self. Michal Ladd has been asked to collate another photograph display and others will be contacted to ask for photo collections which could be used in the display. <i>Action</i> - Consider whether the Events Growth Grant would be available. Presentation to be sent to all of the organisations initially contacted including library and Arts Centre and follow up to be made after Easter.</p> <p>It was suggested that STC could host a showing of its glass photographs as part of the event – Cllr Hurr offered to host on the night as he has been offered a ‘light box’ to view them through.</p> <p><i>Charter Fayre</i> –Application has been lodged with ESC for the Fair to take place on South Green as usual. Responses from ESC are being dealt with as they are received.</p>
	Date of next meeting	30 th April 2026 – at 9.30am

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