

**SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a Meeting held on Tuesday 25th August 2026
at 7.30p.m.
at Champions Manor Hall

Present:

Councillor S Wilson (Chair)
Councillor M O Brien (Vice Chair)

Councillor A Shearring	Councillor M Sismey
Councillor A Cash	Councillor J Birch
Councillor C Benn	Councillor P Price

In attendance: Environment Officer, Councillor B Massey and five members of the public

PE-26-490 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillor D Thompson, Councillor D Eley, Councillor K Bentley, Councillor P Ferry & Councillor I Roberts.

PE-26-491 Dispensation Considerations

None received.

PE-26-492 Declarations of Interest

None received.

PE-26-493 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Planning and Environment meeting held on 30th June 2026 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor M O Brien

Seconded: Councillor A Shearring

Vote: All in favour

PE-26-494 Public Questions

Five members of the public spoke in relation to agenda item 9, Essex County Council planning application CC/CHL/55/26

PE-26-495 Budgetary Position

The current budgetary position as of 19 of August 2026 attached to the agenda was **AGREED** and **NOTED**.

PE-26-496 Previous Planning Decisions and Appeals

Committee **NOTED** planning decision differences from Chelmsford City Council.

PE-26-497 Planning Applications

26/00987/FUL 6 Bridge Cottages Old Wickford Road

Proposed outbuilding.

The Planning and Environment Committee has NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

26/00945/FUL 41 East Bridge Road

First floor side / rear extension location and so it does not cause damage to the adjacent building.

The Planning and Environment Committee has **NO OBJECTIONS** to this application.

PE-26-499 Essex County Council Application CC/CHL/55/26

Committee considered documentation and submitted comments on the proposed redevelopment of Chetwood School by Essex County Council.

Proposal: To submit the following observations and comments as noted in Appendix A:

Proposed: Councillor M O Brien

Seconded: Councillor A Shearring

Vote: All in favour

At 8.11 pm Five members of the public and Councillor B Massey left the meeting.

PE-26-500 Items to Note

Committee **NOTED** the following –

- Following requests from the Town Council, Chelmsford City Council carried out improvement works in the town centre across publicly owned spaces. As part of this programme, de-weeding and deep cleaning are taking place around Trinity Square, sections of Chandlers Way and Guild Way over the 10th & 11th August 2026.
- A request for a deep clean in town has been sent to Chelmsford City Council and Asda's management company
- The South Woodham Ferrers Town Council has received the Zero Carbon Certification until July 2028.
- Essex Wildlife Trust has placed wildfire awareness signs up at each entrance point on the Fen. These state no fires, BBQs & smoking.
- The community litter pick was arranged by the Town Council and Ray Towey on the 02 of August and was attended by around 10 volunteers.
- The Environment Officer attended a tree inspection course on the 06th of August. Another date for councillor attendance will be available later in the year.
- The Garden of Remembrance Pet Scattering Copse opened on the 31st of July 2026. Two applications will be completed w/c 24/8/2026.
- ESO report for August 2026 is attached to agenda.
- Chelmsford City Council have approved implementation of a revised Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) 2026 tariff of £476 per net additional dwelling (or equivalent qualifying development and index linked), to take effect from 1 August 2026 be approved.

- The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 17th August 2026. Attached to the agenda.

PE-26-501 Lease with Essex Wildlife Trust

Committee considered the revised lease from Essex Wildlife Trust and the annual costs.

Proposal: To defer the recommendation to Council so that the new lease can be looked at in advance of the next meeting by the committee and Town Clerk to circulate the information.

Proposed: Councillor S Wilson

Seconded: Councillor A Cash

Vote: All in favour

PE-26-502 Garden of Remembrance

Committee considered signage improvements for the Garden of Remembrance

Proposal: For a new sign with updated wording and conditions to be purchased and installed at the entrance area with the white background and blue text option.

Proposed: Councillor M O Brien

Seconded: Councillor J Birch

Vote: All in favour

PE-26-503 Fen

- Committee considered the report attached for Fen maintenance
- Committee **NOTED** the hay cut on the Fen is scheduled for 24/8/2026

Proposal: To accept quote A of £4,986.00 from Farm & Country Fencing Ltd to reinstate the Fen raised walkway for £3,277.95 from S106 monies and the remaining funds to be allocated from budget code 4720 Fen Maintenance.

Proposed: Councillor M O Brien

Seconded: Councillor M Sismey

Vote: All in favour

Proposal: To defer the decision on works for the access gates to the Fen and new quotes to be obtained for consideration in order to make them accessible friendly.

Proposed: Councillor M O Brien

Seconded: Councillor S Wilson

Vote: All in favour

PE-26-504 Inchbonnie Roundabout Planting

Committee considered proposed planting plans for the two flower beds at the sponsored roundabout. The 2-year agreement for sponsorship with Chelmsford City Council expires 30 September 2027.

Proposal: To agree the planned planting schemes as proposed.

Proposed: Councillor A Cash

Seconded: Councillor C Benn

Vote: All in favour

PE-26-505 Report to Council

- Comments submitted for planned redevelopment of Chetwood School to be submitted by the Town Clerk.

PE-26-506 Media Coverage

- The opening of the Pet Scattering Copse.

PE-26-507 Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 29th September 2026 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 9.16pm

Signed

Date: 29th September 2026