



Minutes from the Annual Town Assembly Meeting: 28th April 2025

1. Welcome by the Mayor:

The Mayor welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr N Dunbar, S Shing, W Heasman O'Neill

3. To sign and accept the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 13th May 2024:

A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes:

No matters were arising.

5. Wealden District Council – Update on Climate Green Paper and how individuals can take action:

Wealden District Council representatives thanked Polegate Town Council for the invitation. They gave a presentation summarising their recent climate research. This included key findings on Climate risks, local perceptions, organisational concerns, and draft strategies towards net zero by 2024. Their updated vision and seven core principles were outlined along with eight draft strategic themes. The presentation also covered how individuals can contribute to tackling climate change through choices related to energy, transport, diet, consumption and supporting nature. Key data from the 'Impact' tool highlighted the primary sources of Polegate emissions: 36% from goods and services, 24% from food and diet, and 15% from housing.

For full details, please refer to the PowerPoint Slides [Polegate-Town-Assembly-Presentation-28-04-2025.pptx](#).

A resident asked where all the data has come from; Wealden responded that they would take it away and then follow up with further information.

6. Environment Agency – Update on Community Resilience and Flooding:

The Environment Agency reported the ongoing work to engage the local community and increase awareness of flood risks. They reiterated that while flooding cannot be prevented, residents can be supported in managing risk and

improving resilience. They strongly encouraged residents to sign up for the flood warning service, which aims to provide at least 24 hours' notice of risk, helping households plan access to routes, medication, and essential supplies. The Environmental Agency has field operatives who remain active in the area, particularly working on main rivers. However, they reiterated that the responsibility for maintaining main rivers lies with riparian owners, although the agency is happy to support and advise them, especially in emergency situations. A resident raised concerns about a wall constructed across a stream near Manor Way, which increased flooding risk for neighbouring properties. The Environment agency explained construction near waterways typically requires consultation with them, though this is not always sought. The resident added that the new neighbour is willing to remove the wall. Another resident inquired about the Agency's powers of prosecution; the agency responded that they would follow up with further information.

7. Open Forum for residents' discussions:

A resident asked for an update on the library. The clerk and Mayor confirmed that the current plan was to relocate the library to the back of the Council Offices at 51 High Street. It would operate as a community-owned facility, similar to the model used in Pevensey.

Another resident then inquired about whether Health Checks would return to Polegate. The Clerk explained that a complaint had previously been lodged due to Polegate being the only town in Wealden not to host the service. Wealden has responded that the attendance figures were too low although a resident countered that the appointments had been fully booked when they tried to attend,

A Councillor acknowledged that Polegate is sometimes overlooked and encouraged residents to attend Council Meetings, not only to stay informed about the Council's work but also to raise concerns and issues they may have. The Councillors stressed that if the Council is unaware of an issue it cannot help to resolve it.

A resident mentioned parking in Polegate. Councillors explained how parking has been a long-standing discussion with Wealden District Council over many years. Wealden has not yet decriminalised parking enforcement in the area which means drivers are often able to park without consequences contributing to the ongoing parking issues, but that council continues to lobby for change.

8. Formal closure of Meeting: Meeting Close at 8:45pm