

MINUTES OF THE FAVERSHAM PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING held at
The Guildhall, Faversham, on Thursday 26th September

Present

Cllr E Thomas (Chair)	Cllr C Williams	Cllr J Saunders
Cllr H Perkin	Cllr K Barker	G Reeves
C Oswald-Jones	M Knowles (SBC)	

In attendance

L Bareham	A Andrews
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21. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Irwin	A Blackburn	A Peters
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22. Declarations of Interest

None

23. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Mr Oswald-Jones, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated 25th July 2019.***

A working group for cycling and walking was suggested, as a joint walkabout had previously been discussed with members of the Climate and Biodiversity Committee. However, it was agreed there were already a number of working groups, cycling was in the Swale Plan and the C&B members could highlight issues to this committee. The Climate Surgery had asked for areas for tree planting, a similar exercise could be undertaken for cycling.

24. Walkabout

A walkabout had been undertaken at the western end of the town. Concerns were raised that areas were being mown before any litter picking had been undertaken and this was due to lack of communication between KCC's contractors and SBC. The Town Caretaker was working through items raised on the list. Hyde and Moat were the housing associations and he was working with SBC to establish their areas of responsibility. Not all verges are suitable to be left for wildflowers if they contained the wrong species or type of grass. It was agreed that public engagement was very important for areas that would be left for biodiversity. The Town Caretaker noted particularly Cobham Chase resurfacing, which he was going to raise with Alan Blackburn.

Cllr Thomas wanted other town entry gateway areas covered by the walkabouts and suggested the next location be Love Lane, meeting at the cemetery, taking in the developments on Love Lane and Graveney Road and walking back into town along Whitstable Road. Proposed date and time 10am Thursday 21st November.

25. Bike Racks and Benches

Cllr Saunders and the Town Caretaker had a walkabout noting locations for additional bike racks. Two more have been installed opposite Wetherspoons. Alan Blackburn has suggested the cobbled area in Court Street, but it will need excavating before racks can be sited. The Town Caretaker will explore the area and discuss planting with Faversham in Bloom and also see if bike racks could be installed at Standard Quay in a more visual place. It was agreed to write a letter to Jubilee Way to ask for cycle racks in a prominent

location and a letter in support of the Station Manager who would like some racks moved nearer to existing.

Cllr Saunders has requested a bench be placed by Westbrook Stream. This will need the cooperation of neighbours and letters will be distributed. Friends of Westbrook Stream would like an input to the design of the bench. There are two locations to consider. It was also agreed to write to Rev Simon Rowlands asking if a bench could be located at St Mary's to take in the view of the church spire.

26. Strategic Plan and Budget Process

KCC will not carry out works to the missing edging to Forbes Road. The Town Caretaker to meet with recommended contractors to obtain quotes for the work. Issues with the weeds in the area and the work will require road closure which will increase costs.

Railings to East Street, KCC will not carry out repairs as they are not 'falling down'.

SBC is looking at CCTV and bringing it back inhouse, together with providing town-wide wifi. There will not be any additional cameras as it is based on evidence of crime.

Climate and Biodiversity Committee are looking to run an anti-idling campaign and it was agreed to work with SBC on signage and perhaps use designs made by children. Cllr Perkin will bring a report to the next meeting on best practise advised by groups such as the Clean Air Parents Network.

SBC are dealing with electric vehicle points.

Water fountains – SBC has requested funding.

Plants – SBC will support with additional planting and there is approximately £2,000 left in EMR from the S106 funds.

It was agreed that members should forward any new project ideas to the Town Clerk, who in liaison with the Chair and Cllr Saunders will bring to the next meeting with estimated costings.

27. Any Other Business

The Preston Street boss is ready and awaiting a works permit for installation. It was confirmed that the Faversham Society had agreed to maintain the boss in the future.