

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 27 August 2019

Present

The Mayor, Cllr A Reynolds
Cllr E Thomas
Cllr C Williams

Cllr T Martin
Cllr B J Martin

Cllr J Saunders
Cllr H Perkin

In Attendance

Louise Bareham – Town Clerk

Absent

Cllr Hook

11. Apologies for Absence

None

12. Declarations of Interest

None

13. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes**

14. Biodiversity and Tree Planting Locations

Cllrs Williams, Saunders and Thomas had a walkabout which highlighted three areas – Millfield, North Preston and Lower Road (top and bottom ends) where they looked to see how some areas could be maintained differently to allow for biodiversity. It was agreed a map was required which indicated who was responsible, ie KCC, SBC or Optivo. Concerns were raised that sapling trees may be damaged and protectors would be required, but agreed getting the community involved would assist. It was agreed to work with the local schools, the majority of which had land available.

At the Swale Green Grid meeting SBC will announce its biodiversity strategy and Cllr Williams will be presenting the Town Council's plans, although it owns limited amount of public space.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to contact secondary schools and have further conversations with SBC and housing associations to identify ownership**

15. National Tree Week 23rd November to 1st December

National Tree Council is raising awareness during this week, a community led group has already contacted the Town Council to run an event in No 12. It was agreed the Committee did not want to duplicate the work and Cllr Williams would liaise with them. It was also agreed to promote seed gathering, perhaps during October half term to get children involved, offering a key of seeds. Cllr Williams would check if Oare Gunpowder Works would be available and whether any suitable leaflets already existed.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to meet with the community group and organise an event for National Tree Week**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by the Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED that Faversham Town Council adopts the NALC Tree Charter**

16. Climate Surgery

The surgery will take place on Saturday 21st September with representatives from different organisations including Kent Wildlife, Friends of the Earth and Plastic Free Faversham. The surgery will include live streaming of talks. It was agreed to invite other stakeholders including the Faversham Society, Open Gardens, GREAT and Faversham in Bloom.

A discussion took place whether it was acceptable to invite a local business, and it was felt that the local wind energy company would be able to engage with the community.

Cllrs Williams and Perkin will meet with the Town Clerk to finalise details

17. Green Day/National Environment Day

It was agreed to pursue the idea of a green day, as discussed by Helen Whately MP and set the date of 6th June 2020 to link in with National Environment Day. SBC and KCC would be invited to partner and Plastic Free Faversham will be invited with the whale project.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to host National Environment Day on Saturday 6th June, from 10am to 4pm at Faversham Recreational Ground**

18. Covenant of Mayors

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to delegate writing of the action plan for the Covenant of Mayors to Cllr Williams and the Town Clerk, based on the Annual Action Plan**

19. No Idling Campaign

It was agreed to try and involve schools with the project, perhaps by running a competition to design banners which could be placed by schools. Cllr Perkin noted the Clean Air Parents network and Planet Earth would be helpful resources. Cllr Williams suggested that the Town Council could ask SBC to write to the Secretary of State requesting powers to fine for idling at schools.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to contact schools via the Faversham Youth Council to engage with the campaign and write to SBC**

20. Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to delegate response to Cllr Williams based on the existing Annual Action Plan**

21. Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Williams would collate comments for Faversham Town Council to agree**

22. FTC Energy Provider

Cllr Williams noted that FTC's contract with EDF expires at the end of the year. It was proposed by Cllr Williams, proposed by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to obtain energy quotes from carbon neutral companies including Bulb, Good Energy, Octopus to take to Policy & Finance Committee for consideration**

23. Public Session

Mr Newman felt that several areas were missing, including travel, land, food, clean power and heat. He asked what were the areas of influence for FTC and what the council could do directly.

He was advised that the Annual Action Plan was not an exhaustive list and other items could be added. One of the priorities was electric vehicle charging points. Travel and land were not specific responsibilities. The Town Council would act as a pressure group on behalf of residents. The Committee did not have any budget but would feed into the borough and county councils. Work had already begun with the hanging baskets.

The Town Council did not have a list of businesses in Faversham. Mr Newman pointed out Wild Bread which was producing food carbon neutrally. He suggested identifying best practise such as Canterbury's Climate Change Partnership.

Mr Oswald-Jones suggested reviewing the conditions of hackney carriage licences regarding idly.

24. Any Other Business

It was agreed to move the public session to the beginning of future meetings and to have a standing agenda item to review the Action Plan.

Cllr Saunders asked that improved cycling was on the next agenda and Cllr Perkin asked for weed killers, particularly with a view to becoming a chemical free town.