

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 28 October 2019

Present

Cllr C Williams Cllr T Martin Cllr B J Martin

In Attendance

Louise Bareham – Town Clerk

24. Comments/Questions from the Public

Cllr Williams noted the Town Council's limited remit on transport and maintenance etc and our role was to work with others and feedback.

Help with action to achieve zero in 10 years, worked with businesses in London to improve cycling as transport for work. Interested in helping with community events.

Lots of interest in active transport and decreasing the use of cars.

Cllr B J Martin, the Faversham Community Land Trust rules allow for energy projects, Orchard Community Project, reducing carbon output, linking with other projects

25. Apologies

Cllr E Thomas Cllr J Saunders

26. Declarations of Interest

Cllr B J Martin – Minute Ref 35

27. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Cllr B J Martin confirmed that SBC had written to the Secretary of State asking for the powers to fine idling vehicles.

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Committee dated 27th August 2019.***

28. Action Plan and Budget Review

The AAP is not exhaustive, it looks to encourage active forms of transport, biodiversity and plastic free, none of the action points had specific monetary values. The Committee should adopt a more sustainable planting plan, with green roofs on bus stops, covering 10 over a two year period. Electric charging points meant influencing planning and SBC was already insisting all future applications included

rapid charging points. Cllr B J Martin suggested requesting the £20,000 from the S106 money from the supermarket planning application, look at government grants and put additional EV points in different locations to those planned by SBC.

It was agreed that EVs presented their own issues and it was suggested that the Committee should look at alternative methods of transport as well.

Cllr B J Martin suggested the Creek could provide a future transport network. Walking and cycling needed to be encouraged, but SBC should facilitate with funding from their special project grant.

Cllr Williams noted residents' request for better recycling facilities at the Rec. Cllr B J Martin reported that the recycling bins in Faversham were not working due to the levels of contamination the rubbish had to be sent to general waste. SBC were looking at bins that only take bottles in an attempt to reduce this.

Requested funding as follows:

Green roofs on bus stops 5 no in Year 1. A more sustainable planting scheme	£5,000
General mitigation – young people, energy, public engagement, future planning	£5,000
Events – Green Day of Action ~ World Environment Day, Climate Surgeries, engagement with schools and young people	£5,000
TOTAL	£15,000

29. Climate Surgery and Seed Gathering

The Climate Surgery was a successful event, members of the public were asked to suggest locations for trees and biodiversity planting. 60 people engaged with this project and there was positive feedback.

This was a good model for future events, such as music/drama and sports and it provided evidence how similar groups could work together. It was agreed that another event would be held.

The seed gathering at Oare Gunpowder Works was successful and was more of an educational event for children, with about 30 attending. A similar event could be held at the Rec in the future.

30. Community Projects Update

National Tree Week was being coordinated by volunteers and is taking place in 12 Market Place. The Town Council had provided a small amount of funding. Plastic Free Faversham's Tree Pledge had been successful and had received 56 pledges. Rewilding the Rec, supported by SBC, FTC and Friends of the Earth, involves areas of the Rec that were not part of the regeneration project, creating more biodiversity.

School children were being involved and a number of native bulbs were being planted. It was thought a group such as a Friends of the Rec would look after the area in the future.

31. Biodiversity and Tree Planting

This item was deferred as Cllr Thomas was not present to provide an update.

32. Education – Projects

Cllr T Martin suggested a poster competition with schools for the no-idling campaign, providing a banner of the winning design, to include all Faversham schools and Ospringe Primary. It was agreed to write to taxi companies asking them not to idle by the train station. Cllr Williams will discuss this all with Cllr Perkin for further discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Williams was working with Abbey School, where 450 trees were being planted next year. The school had included this project within geography and it is hoped that other projects would happen at the QE, where a further 30 trees were being planted. Trees with Farms were looking at hedge planting and were working with landowners on the outskirts of the town.

It was questioned whether schools could get involved with forest gardening and food production, but Cllr T Martin thought it was difficult for secondary schools as their curriculum was so tailored and they were not a community resource.

33. Pesticide/Herbicide Use

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Williams and being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to undertake an audit of all chemical used by the Town Council***

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to write to Swale Borough Council, housing associations and schools to ask when chemicals/pesticides they use.***

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to work with Faversham in Bloom and Open Gardens to write an article in the Spring Newsletter on bee friendly gardens***

34. Electric Charging Points

Cllr B J Martin reported that rapid charging points would be sited at the new supermarket, hotel and care home at Perry Court. The Local Plan would look at supplementary sites, which Cllr Thomas will update on his return.

35. Cycling

Cycle Community is a charity recycling and repairing old bikes who are keen to run an event in Faversham. They offer free bike checks, advice and how to carry out repairs to punctures and gears etc; like a repair cafe for bikes. Cllr B J Martin noted Cycle Fest, which could be incorporated with Festival of Transport. National Bike Week is in June. Cllr Williams thought this would be a good idea for 12 Market Place and suggested looking into training for adults in conjunction with KCC, particularly for women cycling with children. 'Boris' style electric bikes, cargo bikes etc were suggested.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED that Faversham Town Council writes to Swale Borough Council to suggest a Swale Cycles Scheme, utilising money from the Special Projects fund.***

36. Any Other Business

An all communities conference was suggested, ensuring that great events do not clash; something that the Economic Development Officer could oversee. It was suggested a networking event for environment groups took place on 1st February 2020 in 12 Market Place.

The Green Party were hosting a peoples' assembly and would feed any learning into the February event. Other events such as the FFF, local engagement forum and Town Meeting should be attended.