

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING held at
The Guildhall, Faversham, on 18 May 2020, 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Thomas

The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds

Cllr Perkin

Cllr T Martin

In attendance:

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

51.	<u>Election</u> Cllr Thomas proposed, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to elect Cllr Williams as Chair for the Civic Year 2020-2021 Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to elect Cllr Perkin as Vice Chair for the Civic Year 2020-2021	
52.	<u>Apologies</u> None	
53.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None	
54.	<u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u> It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting dated 27th January 2020 Cllr Williams reported that the Sustainable Festival Guidelines will need to be amended to take into account Covid-19 changes and will be more relevant for next year. Tree planting at Abbey School has been postponed until autumn due to school closure.	
55.	<u>Hanging Baskets</u> 52 hanging baskets have been ordered and should be in place the first week of June. The quotation includes watering.	
56.	<u>Tree Planting</u>	

	<p>Cllr Williams noted trees were to be planted on the bund to replace those that had died. It was agreed to contact a number of groups including Faversham Trees and Tree Wardens. Cllr Thomas noted SBC environmental grants should be available for groups wishing to plant trees. It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to request everyone forward locations for tree planting to the Town Clerk.</p>	TC
57.	<p><u>Pesticide and Herbicide Usage</u></p> <p>A list had been put together by the Facilities Manager and information from schools and other housing associations will be added. An updated list will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to write to KCC to inform them of our goal to become a pesticide free town and to write to SBC to what what alternatives can be used instead of current herbicides</p>	AA TC
58.	<p><u>Wildflower Verges</u></p> <p>It was agreed to work with partners on this project and Cllr Williams had already spoken with the Kent Wildlife Trust who are running a Wilder Town campaign. Cllr Thomas will speak to SBC about incorporating trees and wild flowers with planning, including the local plan and biodiversity plan. The new park ranger also had contacts with KCC.</p> <p>Cllr Perkin noted that a map had already been started at the Climate Surgery. Kent WLT were happy to use Faversham as a pilot for their scheme, as the town already ranks top in their wilder garden lists.</p> <p>It was agreed to promote this project through social media and build up to World Environment Day. Providing ideas people can do in their own gardens.</p> <p>As the time frame for planting trees is November to March, it was agreed to get details of locations for the next meeting in July.</p>	TC
59.	<p><u>FTC Chemical Use</u></p> <p>The Town Council does not use any chemicals outside. They had recently changed to eco-friendly cleaners for internal use.</p>	

	It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to publish a list of chemicals used by the Town Council on the website.	TC
60.	<p><u>Wilder Towns and Chemical Free Town</u></p> <p>It was agreed to strive to achieve pesticide free status, but would need a town wide approach, raising public awareness to have a wider effect to the environment.</p> <p>It was suggested that the allotment sites could have small ponds and ensure there was access for hedgehogs. Small nature reserve areas, such as Westbrook Stream needed to be safeguarded.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to gather information and best practise from other councils to put together an action plan</p>	TC
61.	<p><u>Virtual Environment Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed to discuss with Kent WLT if they had any information to share at a virtual meeting. Timescales were too tight for a meeting on World Environment Day but could promote a collaborative event for a later date. Meeting online with residents would open a conversation to a wider audience. Start sharing a map to open the discussion where trees and wildflower verges could go.</p>	
62.	<p><u>World Environment Day</u></p> <p>It was agreed to promote an online virtual event via social media to share videos and photos throughout the day. Friday 5th June</p>	ET HP
63.	<p><u>Action Plan</u></p> <p>The current Action Plan was agreed and the committee would work towards another review later in the year. The Chair will liaise with the Clerk to consider progress report.</p>	CW TC
64.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Cllr Thomas suggested an anti-idling campaign where schools may be invited to enter a competition to design signage. It was agreed that this would be better for 2021 to coincide with Clean Air Day in July. Idling was an issue around the whole of the town and not just outside schools.</p>	

	The meeting closed at 9.32pm	