

MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING held
Virtually via Zoom, on 14th September 2020, 7pm

Present:

The Mayor, Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr Williams
Deputy Mayor, Cllr T Martin	Cllr E Thomas
Cllr H Perkin	

In attendance:

L Bareham – Town Clerk

73. **Apologies for Absence**

None

74. **Declarations of Interest**

None

75. **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Meeting dated 13 July 2020.***

76. **Community Gardening Project**

Cllr Perkin noted that a member of the public had sent in a proposal to extend the Abbey Fields community garden to the Millfield Allotment Site. Cllr Perkin will liaise with her to organise a site visit.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Martin suggested it could also be extended to Love Lane in the future.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin and seconded by The Mayor, Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that if community gardening projects required to support financially, that they should contact the Town Clerk to apply for a grant.***

77. **Biodiversity and Tree Planting**

It was agreed that Cllr Williams will contact Brooke to have a further discussion about the Tree Planting Map presents on social media.

It was suggested that Cllr Williams should make contact to Swale Borough Council Tree Officer John Reeves, to discover if Queen's Hall Car park had been included within their plans and to make further suggestions.

78. **National Tree Week (28 November – 2 December)**

It was noted that Faversham Tree Group are very keen to run another Tree Week, due to the success of last year's event. It was agreed that 12 Market Place shall be available for Faversham Tree Group to use.

It was suggested that the Town Council could support Faversham Tree Week by collaborating and providing promotional support and Tree Planting advice. They had asked about signage on trees such as how many years old, how much CO² etc. This should be linked with Public Spaces Committee.

79. **Faversham Trees**

It was noted that Faversham Rec Park Ranger Ben Simon is looking to carry out activities on the Rec, such as tree planting walks. Cllr Thomas confirmed there was to be a second Friends Meeting. It was suggested that further discussion and research about tree signage should be carried out with Cllr Williams and Town Clerk, ensuring they were vandal proof and how to incorporate QR codes.

The Big Tree Plant

Cllr Perkin suggested contacting the Tree Council to see if any trees can be donated to the council to give away to residents, or to help with the collaboration with Faversham Tree Group during Tree Week.

It was noted that the trees along the Front Brents needed to be replaced.

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor, Cllr Martin, and seconded Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting ***RESOLVED to action the replacement of the trees at Front Brents at the earliest opportunity and to support tree planting activities/communities/events such as the Faversham Tree Group.***

It was proposed by The Mayor, Cllr Alison Reynolds and seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting, it was ***RESOLVED to help educate the local primary school about Tree Week and encourage the idea of planting a tree within their school to commemorate the year of 2020 and pledge to care for the tree.***

It was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting, it was ***RESOLVED to carry out further research on what type of tree sapling would be appropriate and allocate £500.***

81 **Future Events**

It was noted that with the recent COVID 19 guidelines it would be appropriate for the Town Council Officers to help guide the committee with what style of future events they would be able to consider.

It was suggested that the donation of Trees to primary schools should come from the Mayor rather than the committee.

Cllr Perkin noted that on the 8th October is Clean Air day. She is keen to share information and spread awareness about idling. It was agreed that approaching the schools to inform them further about idling and KCC

project of changing people's behaviour about travel.

It was suggested by Cllr T Martin that with any event going ahead, it would be appropriate to notify Swale Borough Council Environmental Cabinet Member, so they are aware of the committees current and future actions.

Councillor Valentine's letter seeks the parish councils' interest in having a presentation on the borough's climate and ecological emergency. It was ***RESOLVED that the Town Clerk should write a response to Cllr Valentine letter and to invite him to a meeting***

Any Other Business

It was noted that for future meetings, the opportunity for public questions prior to the start of the meeting should be made available and advertised on social media.

It was suggested for future meetings that additional guests can be invited if an item on the agenda applies to them.

The meeting closed at 20.33