

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group

Monday 11th of April, 7pm

Present:

Cllr Williams
Matthew Hatchwell

Cllr Perkin

Cllr Thomas

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

186. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Henderson, Cllr Reynolds, Martin Collins, Ali Corbel and Grace Couch.

187. Declarations of Interest

None.

188. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Cllr Williams noted that the planters have arrived.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting dated the 14th of February 2022.**

189. Development Updates

Cllr Williams gave an update on community gardening. The Town Clerk provided an update from Grace Couch stating that the Car Club will be launching on the 27th of April, as part of Kent Air Week.

190. Climate Events

It was discussed how social media can be used to highlight environmental awareness days.

ACTION – Identify key environmental awareness days to prioritise and brainstorm ways they can be shared on social media.

191. Pesticide Amnesty

Cllr Perkin gave an update on this agenda item.

ACTION – Approach SBC to get approval and information on disposal of the pesticides and to determine health and safety around the initiative.

Other amnesties around the country have put together ‘Replacement Packs’ with information on alternatives and solutions to harmful pesticides.

Cllr Perkin suggested that we look to organise this for the Pesticide Action Week at the end of October.

192. European Eels Meeting

Matthew Hatchwell has been working with the Zoological Society to reintroduce and monitor eels at Thorn Creek and Oare Marshes, hopefully starting in the middle of May.

193. Planning Policy Paper

The planning policy paper put together by Cllr Perkin was discussed in terms of what should be included in it to protect the environment.

ACTION – The policy paper is to be presented to the planning committee.

194. Allotment Events Summer 2022

Potential events for the summer were discussed.

ACTION – Cllr Williams to liaise with the allotment groups on this suggestion.

195. Stonebridge Pond

Matthew Hatchwell gave an update on the pond. The Friends of the Westbrook Stream have been discussing the buildup of silt with Southeast Rivers Trust, who have much more experience in dealing with the issue. Through this engagement, they have identified four options for mitigation, which will be discussed in a follow-up call this month.

196. Items for Report

Cllr Thomas brought up the environment along Ospringe Street and gave some ideas on what the town council could do to improve the area in terms of biodiversity. **ACTION** – Cllr Williams to contact Cllr Thomas regarding this.

Cllr Williams noted that the Kent Wildlife Trust would like to put on an event to present Faversham with their Wilder Towns award. Cllr Williams suggested that the rec would be a good place for this. Ways to promote the award were considered.