

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate & Biodiversity Working Group

Monday 12th July 2021, 7pm

Present:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Perkin

Cllr Reynolds

Cllr Henderson

Grace Couch – Swale Borough Council

In Attendance:

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

Public Session

Hatch Street planting – a ‘strange’ plant was noted. Cllr Williams and Chris Oswald-Jones will meet at Hatch Street to discuss possible planting for the beds

129. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Thomas, Ali Corbel

130. Declarations of Interest

None

131. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The criteria for a wilder town is still not known. Group Structure – Cllr Henderson noted that he would not have time to be responsible for Community Gardening due to other commitments. He suggested one of the representatives from Oare Gunpowder Works might be interested. It was noted that the Faversham Society were active on biodiversity and perhaps Mathew Hatchwell could be approached.

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Committee Meeting dated 16th June 2021.***

132. Children and Families Fuel Poverty

Stevie Pettitt, SBC Officer for Fuel and Water Home Adviser for Children and Families gave a presentation. Stevie was looking for venues in Faversham, Davington Church and Faversham Umbrella were suggested., which were close to Priory Ward. It was also suggested to contact Swale Citizens Advice.

133. Co-option of Members

Grace Couch was in attendance and Ali Corbel had sent apologies, it was **RECOMMENDED that Grace be co-opted to the working group**

Other recommendations were a representative of Swale Friends of the Earth, Paul Jessett of Oare Gunpowder Works and Matthew Hatchwell from the Faversham Society, Keely from Kent Wildlife Trust and an allotment representative.

134. Community Gardening

It was agreed to map the community gardening areas and the Town Clerk is hoping to set this up on the council's mapping software. Cllr Williams had started a list of all known areas.

Small amounts of funding could be made available to community groups for gardening projects.

135. Fast Fashion

Cllr Perkin gave a presentation on fast fashion and suggested that clothing recycling points should be mapped and promoted to groups. Grace Couch is working on an EU funded project blueprint and is looking to organise clothing swaps in schools during November around COP26. Part of this will be a student wardrobe audit, bringing in what they don't need. Cash for cobber – schools get money is being piloted.

ACTION: Cllr Perkin and Grace to meet

135. Monthly 'The Buzz'

Future articles for the Buzz were discussed, including the new planters, seedball giveaway and community gardening.

136. Allotment Update

Adam Andrews provided an allotment update. It was agreed to contact Barrett David Wilson and Crest Nicholson regarding the proposed sites.

137. Items for Next Agenda

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, National Tree Week, Big Green Week, Wilder Towns