

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm

### **Present:**

Cllr Williams  
Cllr Henderson  
Grace Couch

Cllr Perkin  
Cllr Thomas  
Matthew Hatchwell

Cllr Reynolds  
Ali Corbel

### **In Attendance:**

L Bareham (Town Clerk)

### **Public Session**

**ACTION** – Allotment Update Report to be uploaded to the website.

Concerns were raised regarding hemlock in St Nicks Allotments.

**ACTION** - Cllr Williams to organise a site visit with Adam Andrews to see what action is needed.

#### **138. Apologies for Absence**

None

#### **139. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **140. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Cllr Henderson noted that minute 131 is slightly misleading as it appears as a single paragraph and it was agreed to split the paragraph.

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 Working Group dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.***

#### **141. Co-option of Members**

Grace Couch had been co-opted at the meeting.

Other recommendations include Matthew Hatchwell from the Faversham Society, who introduced himself. Martin Collins of Swale Friends of the Earth had also expressed an interest in co-option.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to recommend the co-option of Matthew Hatchwell and Martin Collins.**

**142. Development Updates**

Cllr Perkin provided an **update for the Pesticide Free Towns**, she met with Cllr Saunders who asked the officers to look at the new Grounds Maintenance Contract to look at the new timescales for the reduction of pesticides.

Cllr Perkin to **ACTION** the revisiting of the Pesticide Action Plan with the Pesticide Action Network representative and gain a new timescale for the reduction of pesticides.

Cllr Henderson provided an **update on Policy**. He noted that wildflower meadows are being lost and hedges are tremendously beneficial to the environment. Cllr Henderson would like to discuss this in future meetings.

**ACTION – Reach out to Maureen at Kent Wildlife Trust** to discuss encouraging wilder gardens and potentially co-opt someone from Kent Wildlife Trust and Bumblebees Trust into the group.

**ACTION – Add educational information about wildlife-friendly gardening to the newsletters.**

Within his **update on Biodiversity**, Cllr Henderson expressed concern about the Faversham Lakes housing development hindering the care of the lakes as a country park and therefore being detrimental to biodiversity.

Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Henderson, **RECOMMENDED that a letter is composed to Andersons to establish the position with the country park and who is going to manage it and to agree to a meeting with them to discuss this further.**

Cllr Williams gave a brief **update on Community Gardening**. Napleton Road and South Road look good, there is a reasonable volunteer base for these beds.

Cllr Thomas confirmed his updated would centre on **recycling** rather than litter picking, but had nothing to report this month.

Cllr Williams gave a brief **update on the Youth Climate Panel**. There have been more sign ups and interest in the Panel. It is intended to be launched officially in October through an exhibition in the Town Hall, this will coincide with COP26, hopefully this will spark some discussion about international conversations and what can be done locally.

Cllr Perkin will provide an **update on Plant Based Diets** to coincide with Veganuary.

The **possibility of 'Keep Faversham Buzzing' signposts** with QR codes were discussed. Cllr Williams suggested finding relevant places for these signs to be used, with the QR code linking to the Town Council website where more information can be found by interested parties.

*Cllr Henderson left the meeting.*

**ACTION** – It was agreed that the use of signs, costs and timescales should be further researched.

The **use of hedgehog signs** was discussed. Hedgehogs have been hit a lot around the main roads of Faversham, especially the A2, so signage would be beneficial in hotspots. This issue was raised by an email from Wrens Hill Hedgehog Rescue. It was agreed funding may be available from the budget.

**ACTION** – Contact the hedgehog rescue to establish how they can help.

**144. Big Green Week**

Grace Couch **updated the meeting on the Big Green Week**, there will be just over 27 events across the borough. Any further information can be easily found on the Big Green Week website.

Cllr Williams noted the two community gardening events happening on the two Saturdays during the week.

**145. Sustainable Development Goals**

Cllr Perkin has been in contact with Sophie Willis, who works for a national NGO called Bond, about the Sustainable Development Goals and how that would look some form of event or exhibition around the COP26 summit. It would be an opportunity to showcase any activism or community initiatives around the town.

Cllr Perkin to **ACTION** organising a meeting with herself, Sophie Willis and Brooke Williams to discuss the feasibility of anything that could be done.

**146. National Tree Week**

Cllr Williams noted the Town Hall is booked for this event. Faversham Tree Group has been contacted to see if they can assist once again. The Abbey School hopes to complete another round of tree planting during the week.

It was **RECOMMENDED to repeat the tree giveaway and seek quotations for trees.**

**ACTION** – To discuss the possibility of a seed collection to encourage younger people to grow trees to then be planted into open spaces.

**ACTION** - Cllr Williams to send out an email to schedule a meeting to discuss the above and create a plan for Tree Week.

**147. Monthly 'The Buzz' Newsletter**

Looking to release the newsletter at the beginning of October, some short articles are needed for this. There is plenty for the initial one, but more will be needed by the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

**148. Bike Hire**

Cllr Williams proposed investigating the costs of a bike hire scheme for Faversham Town Council.

Grace Couch raised concerns that it is rather expensive. Grace to **ACTION** further conversation with Louise Bareham around the idea to discuss feasibility and costs.

**149. Wilder Town**

Kent Wildlife Trust operate the Wilder Kent Awards, Faversham have been identified as a pilot for this scheme. Faversham is going to be awarded a Wilder Town status, this will be announced soon. There is discussion around an awards ceremony next spring.

**150. Allotment Update**

Adam provided a report to the meeting on the allotments:

At **Stonebridge allotments**, three trees need to be removed as emergency work, which will include a short road closure.

At **Millfield**, a new secretary is being looked for and quotes for the water supply are being compared.

At **North Preston**, a slab is ready for the commemorative bench. A new Committee is still being arranged. Removal of rubbish will be proposed at the next meeting once the cost is confirmed.

At **St Nicholas** a response from SBC is being awaited regarding outstanding planning issues.

At **Perry Court** there is a lack of response from the developer for planning applications.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Reynolds, and when put to the meeting it was **AGREED** to write a collective letter as a Town Council to the developer to obtain a response and information on the status of the site.

At **Love Lane**, all is going as planned.

**151. Items for Next Agenda**

The two living roof bus shelters that we have commissioned are now in the UK awaiting custom clearance, so this could potentially be done this autumn.