

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group

11th October 2021, 7pm.

In Attendance:

Cllr Williams	Cllr Perkin	Cllr Reynolds
Martin Collins	Cllr Thomas	Matthew Hatchwell
Grace Couch	Ali Corbel	

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time:

Concern for the hemlock at St Nick's allotment was brought up.

Cllr Williams informed the meeting that part of the fencing process has changed which will allow the piece of land nobody owns where the hemlock is growing to come under ownership.

ACTION – Cllr Williams to organize a site visit for himself and will feedback after that.

The country park was also brought up with a member of the public asking for an update.

ACTION – Cllr Henderson to follow up on the country park developments and provide an update for the next meeting.

152. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Henderson sent his apologies.

153. Declarations of Interest:

None.

154. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were **proposed** by Cllr Williams, **seconded** by Cllr Reynolds, and on being put to the meeting it was **AGREED** to accept the Minutes dated 13th September 2021.

155. Development Updates:

Pesticide Free Town

Cllr Perkin updated the meeting on the **Pesticide Free Town** initiative. Cllr Perkin has a meeting with the Pesticide Free network to review next steps on the action plan, by the next meeting Cllr Perkin will report back any developments.

Matthew Hatchwell informed the meeting that he has put in a freedom of information request to Swale Borough Council regarding their usage of pesticides.

ACTION – Cllr Perkin to send Grace Couch the report on pesticide use throughout the borough when received.

ACTION – Cllr Thomas **proposed** that Matthew Hatchwell requests a report on Kent County Council's use of pesticides alongside the one from SBC, this was **agreed**.

Policy

There is no update on policy for this meeting.

Biodiversity

Cllr Henderson is absent, so Cllr Williams provided a brief update.

The Wilder Towns award is to be launched soon and will be issuing a statement focused on Faversham Town Council in their next magazine.

Community Gardening

Cllr Williams updated the meeting on the community gardening initiatives.

South East in Bloom award results have come in and South Road and Napleton Road gained certificates of excellence. Faversham won gold overall.

Youth

There is progression with the Youth Climate Panel.

There will be an update in the next meeting following the exhibition.

Plant Based Diets

There is no update for this item in this meeting.

156. New Housing Developments:

Martin Collins **RECOMMENDED** that the committee collectively try and instigate further contact with developers in Faversham and was **seconded** by Cllr Thomas. When put to the meeting, it was **AGREED** that the Working Group should approach developers as a formal body to try and open new communication channels and understand what they are doing in terms of biodiversity.

ACTION – The working group to put together a collective letter, drafted by Martin Collins, to each of the developers to make contact and gain further insight into the activities of each developer from a climate and biodiversity point of view.

It was suggested by Cllr Perkin the group puts together a list of criteria to be considered in relation to the climate emergency, to be passed to the Planning Committee to promote coherence within the council. **ACTION** - This topic is to be brought forward in the next meeting for a formal proposal to allow a solid basis for the proposal to be developed in the meantime.

157. Hedgehog Signage

Deferred to the next meeting.

158. Events

Sustainable Development Goals

Cllr Perkin updated the meeting on the SDGs. They are looking to establish where the exhibition will be held, budgets and there have been multiple organisations interested in getting involved.

National Tree Week

Cllr Williams updated the meeting on the Tree Week exhibition in the Town Hall organised by Sophie Willis and BOND CIC, there will be activities available as well as a talks. If the trees arrive in time, the tree giveaway will also form part of Tree Week.

Grace Couch noted that SBC will be in receipt of 11,000 trees from KCC to be planted around the borough.

A more detailed update will be provided at the next meeting.

Cycle Fest

Cllr Williams discussed this with Cllr Saunders and it is planned to try and kickstart Cycle Fest within the Festival of Transport. On being put to the meeting, it was **AGREED** to pursue the restarting of Cycle Fest.

159. Christmas Jumper Swap

Cllr Perkin informed the meeting about this. Buying a new jumper every year is one of the most wasteful things we do, so a jumper swap would help the people of the town be more eco-friendly for Christmas.

It was suggested that the jumper swap is incorporated within other Christmas initiatives.

160. Increasing Recycling Information

Cllr Thomas noted that there is still confusion among residents over what to recycle and where.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and when put to the meeting it was **AGREED** to pursue the creation of a recycling information document for the Town Council website further.

161. Tree Planting

KCC Highways plans for tree planting both this year and next year. Cllr Williams noted that this shows that these areas are being picked up.

It was discussed that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is commemorated by a tree with a plaque. The type of tree must suit the location that is decided upon. Locations discussed include the recreation ground, Stonebridge Pond, Market Place, or a churchyard.

ACTION – Councillors to come up with ideas of location and suitable species of tree for the Platinum Jubilee to discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION – A plan to be developed for Stonebridge Pond's development. The trees with ash die back will be culled next week, so these will need replacing with suitable vegetation. Matthew Hatchwell noted that saltwater encroachment is an issue there. By the next meeting there should be more of an idea of what is to be done there.

Iliffe and Iliffe are proposing to support the planting of trees but are yet to confirm details. The location of these trees is to be considered.

162. Allotment Update:

The allotment update document was shared to the meeting. This document can be found on the website.

Cllr Williams noted that St Nick's allotment is the one that hasn't had trouble with break ins. The allotments otherwise are running very well.

Martin Collins suggested that the allotments complete a survey on biodiversity to understand what is there. Cllr Williams noted that the allotments are an important green space that could be highlighted more to the community, potentially through the committees.

ACTION – Cllr Williams to organize a visit to St Nick's allotments with Adam.

163. Items for Next Agenda:

- Cllr Perkin **proposed** discussing the possibility of a criterion related to climate and biodiversity being added to the grant applications.
- Grace Couch **proposed** to follow up on the bike share initiative, as discussed in the previous meeting.
- Matthew Hatchwell **proposed** discussing the developments at the Brenley Corner roundabout.
- Matthew Hatchwell also noted that SBC have a consultation open about water management in the area, the deadline for this is October 26th.

ACTION – Matthew to share the PowerPoint for the Brenley Corner developments alongside details of the consultation with committee members.

- Martin Collins **proposed** to ask certain societies to survey different areas around town to be able to advertise the diversity within the town. **Action** – Martin to draft a proposal for this alongside Matthew Hatchwell.

Any Other Business

Cllr Perkin noted that the fuel and poverty outreach worker Stevie Petitt has put a project together called the Swale Sisters that is being supported by SBC, they give away sustainable sanitary wear, and it is hoped a collection point will be made in Faversham soon.

Cllr Thomas noted that SBC are funding the installation of two water refill stations, one in Central Car Park and one on the Pavilion of the Rec.

Ali Corbel asked about the 20's Plenty planters and what is happening with them. Cllr Williams noted he is trying to incorporate them into community gardening groups that already exist.

(Minutes typed by Abi Rainbow)