

Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group

14th February, 7pm

Present:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Perkin

Cllr Reynolds

Cllr Thomas

Cllr Henderson

Martin Collins

Grace Couch

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

175. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Matthew Hatchwell and Ali Corbel.

176. Declarations of Interest

None.

177. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Cllr Williams gave an update on the highway verges from the previous meeting, he has received documents from KCC and forwarded them to the group. The verges that are accepted will be designated as pollinator verges allowing for greater biodiversity. The next step is to come up with a document with suggestions on verges to put forward for this scheme and this to send back to KCC.

ACTION – Councillors to consider which verges they would like to put forward and send suggestions to Cllr Williams. This prospect is to be shared on social media to allow the public to have their say if they wish.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Reynolds, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting dated the 15th of December 2021.**

178. Development Updates

Cllr Perkin gave an update on Pesticide Free Towns. Some things that will be worked on next is increasing engagement and organising the Pesticide Amnesty for the summer months.

Cllr Williams gave an update on community gardening. Grace Couch suggested getting schools involved with community gardening and will pass on contact information.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that a promotional stall is run outside the town hall to try and encourage further participation in community gardening.**

Cllr Williams gave an update on the Wilder Towns initiative.

Cllr Reynolds noted that the Abbey Physics Garden are working on a project to engage youth in community gardening.

179. Planters

It was **recommended** that the planters are placed outside the post office and at the junction of East Street.

Cllr Williams noted that if anyone has any suggestions on plants that could go in the planters to pass them to him or the town clerk via email. Now, it is planned to have pollinator friendly plants. Cllr Thomas suggested a 'surprise' plant, such as a sunflower.

Cllr Williams and Cllr Perkin are investigating removing the railings between Forbes Road and Dorset Place. They are hoping to meet with Alan Blackburn to discuss potential solutions and will give an update in due course.

180. Bat Box Corridor

Cllr Perkin introduced this topic, which has been suggested to her by a resident. There are already bat box corridors in the town, but it would be good to have some more. The resident also suggested that we utilise the Abbey Physics Men's Shed to see if they can build these for us.

ACTION – Cllr Perkin to consult with the Bat Conservation Trust for advice and begin to consider potential locations for bat boxes.

181. Mapping Faversham's Chalk Streams

Matthew is absent this evening although his report is available to view on the website.

Cllr Thomas noted that it will be interesting and beneficial for people to know about the chalk streams in Faversham.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to write to Cllr Saunders in his capacity as a Swale Borough Councillor as a committee and explain the problems regarding pollution in the chalk streams.**

ACTION – Cllr Thomas to begin to draft the letter to Cllr Saunders.

182. Planning Policy Paper

Cllr Perkin introduced this item. She has previously discussed taking a document to the planning committee to clearly state how the climate committee aspires to a more biodiverse Faversham.

Cllr Perkin shared her draft Planning Policy Paper she has created with the meeting.

ACTION – Cllr Perkin to bring the document to the Planning Committee for consideration once it is complete.

183. Hedgehog Signage

Cllr Williams noted it is Hedgehog Awareness Week in May.

Gabbi, who runs Wrens Hill Rescue, introduced herself and explained that in winter they experienced an increase in demand. Audrey, who runs Hogwinkles and works alongside Gabbi, introduced herself as well.

Gabbi noted that key places to place signs include the A2, around the creek and near Sainsburys. Most incidents occur in residential areas.

The possibility of wheelie bin stickers and an information stall within the market in the future was discussed.

ACTION – Cllr Thomas to investigate whether wheelie bin stickers can be put on public bins.

184. Allotment Update

There has been a lot of clearance work at the allotments recently. The allotment report can be seen on our website.

185. Items for Report

Grace Couch brought up the car club that is planned to be launched in Faversham and noted that SBC have accepted the tender for it.

The company who will be running the car club do not have any membership fees so it will be very accessible.

ACTION – Grace Couch to liaise with the town clerk on the bike hangers and bike hire projects, as well as the car club's launch and how the town council can assist with this.

Cllr Williams noted that the second living roof bus shelter should be going in soon at Stone Street.

Grace noted that Solar Together is now operating and it allows people to access affordable solar panels. She is also working on new sustainable event policies and is looking at the Hop Festival to be a pilot on this.

Minutes typed by Abi Rainbow