

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

8<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

### Present:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Henderson

Cllr Jackson

Matthew Hatchwell

Cllr Perkin

Cllr Thomas

Martin Collins

Cllr Reynolds

Cllr Hook

Grace Couch

### In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

### Public Participation

Chris Oswald-Jones asked Members to consider Helen Whately's briefing note on waste water under item 7 of the agenda.

Maria Newman asked about the hedgehog wheelie bin stickers and the Anderson Lakes land.

Cllr Henderson said he had made it clear to Andersons and SBC that the proposed trusteeship would not work the way it had been drafted and had requested a meeting. He considered that the management of the land should not be left to the residents, although important it was not urgent and there was a further 12 months before it would be open to the public.

#### 001. Apologies for Absence

None

#### 002. Declarations of Interest

None

#### 003. Election of a Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to elect Cllr Henderson as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee.**

Cllr Hook proposed, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to elect two Vice-Chairs for the Committee**

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to elect Cllr Perkin as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee**

#### 004. Minutes and Matters Arising

Matthew noted that 191 should be monitor European eels and not reintroduce. Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being

put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group dated 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**005. Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference were noted and that this Committee will deal with street furniture and benches.

**006. Project Template**

Cllr Jackson noted litter was an issue and proposed more bins should be purchased and emptied by the Town Council, as SBC had said they couldn't afford to empty additional bins. It was agreed to consider the time and resources. Cllr Henderson argued this was the Borough responsibility and would be very time consuming.

Cllr Hook suggested planting tree cover on pavements for added shade. Cllr Henderson had already proposed a community woodland and suggested that £5,000 budget would not be sufficient and further funding would need to be sought and he will complete the project template. Unfortunately, so far, the best locations were outside the town boundary.

Cllr Perkin noted the incredible edible project, planting food in sustainable places outside of allotments and would put forward a project proposal.

Cllr Thomas mentioned improving biodiversity in Ospringe Street, by the car park, SBC had already agreed if Town Council resources were used.

Other locations for additional trees were discussed including Abbey School boundary with A2, footpaths near the Long Bridge and A2 footbridge. Cllr Thomas will speak to KCC Active Travel officers.

Cllr Williams suggested the flat roof on 12 Market Place become a green roof and changing the current van to an electric.

Cllr Perkin noted awareness events for the environment, using social media etc. She further questioned why the Committee was having to send details to the Policy & Resources Committee when the budget had already been agreed.

**007. Development Updates**

Pesticide Amnesty to take place, but waste removal could be costly. Fish free ponds to aid biodiversity

Leaflets to help people make their gardens biodiverse, no artificial grass, community gardening – more needed. Great Big Green Week in September

Eel flap poorly installed at Thorn Creek 5 years ago, eel flap never opens as it's under water. 12-15 people trained to count eels. A nightingale and turtledove spotted.

Anna Stonor attended last Creek Working Group meeting to discuss Stonebridge Pond, SBC have said they would pay for consultancy works, EA declined to attend meeting.

Policies regarding water reduction for the NHP. Concerns raised regarding waste for moored boats.

**008. CC Highways Weed Control – Invite to Market Engagement Exercise**  
Councillors showed an interest in attending this and will be sent details.

**009. Allotment Update**  
Nothing available

**010. Items for Report**  
Cllr Perkin said she would come up with items for social media posts for awareness days. Plastic free day was coming up.