

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9th November 2022, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Reynolds

Cllr Thomas

Cllr Henderson (until item 43)

Cllr Perkin

Martin Collins

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

034. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Hook, Cllr Jackson, Matthew Hatchwell, Ali Corbel and Grace Couch.

035. Declarations of Interest

None

036. Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Williams proposed, seconded by Henderson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 26th October 2022.**

037. Development Updates

Stonebridge Pond - Cllr Williams advised that Matthew Hatchwell had provided some updates on items discussed at the previous meeting. A Stonebridge Pond Working Group was being formed to take that work forward.

Biodiversity - Cllr Williams advised he would be discussing progressing the Ospringe bio-diversity proposal with the Town Clerk.

Cllr Perkin reported the biodiversity leaflet had been designed by Claire Windridge and distributed as part of Great Big Green Week in September and recorded her thanks to Claire.

Cllr Perkin reported a waste contact briefing at SBC was being held next week which would discuss the reduction of pesticides in street spraying. An update would be provided at the next meeting. Further discussions were ongoing with KCC about the same issue.

Cllr Williams advised there would be some community gardening activities coming up to tie in with National Tree Week. There had been some issues with poor weather and availability of community gardeners. Cllr Williams felt there was more work required in the promotion of community gardeners. The Town Clerk advised the Facilities Manager, Stacey Woolf would be

attending the next Faversham in Bloom meeting and would be assisting with planting.

Cllr Williams advised there were no updates regarding European Eels and Water/Waste water but Matthew Hatchwell was looking into the issues raised from the reply to the Mayor's letter by the Leader of SBC, Cllr Mike Baldock.

038. Faversham Lakes Country Park

Cllr Henderson reported a planning meeting would be held on Monday 14th November and discussions around the planning application were ongoing.

National Tree Week

039. Cllr Williams reported 450 trees of various types had been ordered for delivery in November, ready for National Tree Week. The Town Clerk advised there would be promotion through social media and distribution would take place from the Town Hall.

Cllr Williams reported that a number of events were being run by the Faversham Trees Group including guided walks and talks. These would be promoted in due course. Cllr Thomas advised SBC had organised some walk and talk events around the Rec. A community tree planting event had also been organised by SBC.

It was agreed the Town Council would produce a leaflet detailing the Tree Giveaway and the events being held by the Faversham Trees Group.

040. Planters

Cllr Williams referred to discussions at the previous meeting regarding planters. It was agreed that the planters could be split between the town centre and the Ospringe Biodiversity project.

It was proposed by Cllr Henderson, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to allocate up to £300 for the allocation and planting of two planters for the town centre.**

041. Benches

The Town Clerk reported letters had been sent to local residents in Flood Lane and the majority who responded had chosen Location 3. The bench would cost £550. Any concreting required to install the bench would be carried out by the Facilities Manager, Stacey Woolf.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to install the bench in Location 3 at Flood Lane.**

Cllr Perkin reported although the play area at Millfield had seating there was no seating available outside the play area for passers-by to use. The Town Clerk agreed to raise the issue with Grame Tuff of SBC.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Thomas and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Cllr Perkin to liaise with residents over the location of a bench for Millfield and for the Town Clerk to contact Graeme Tuff of SBC.**

042.

Purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera for Loan

Referring to the paper included within the meeting papers, The Town Clerk advised a number of Councils were offering the facility to residents to use a Thermal Imaging Camera to help improve energy efficiency within their properties. This helped reduce carbon emissions and also helped with energy bills. The thermal imaging process worked best during the winter months when the residents had their central heating on.

The Town Council would look to recruit volunteers to carry out the thermal imaging, using an online booking system to check availability.

Martin Collins advised Friends of the Earth were running a Warm Homes Campaign and would be able to help with recruiting potential volunteers.

The importance of having information available to residents following the thermal imaging process on how to help resolve energy efficiency issues identified was discussed and it was agreed that linking up with FACE and Stevie Pettitt, Fuel and Water Advisor, would be desirable. Cllr Perkin suggested approaching the Bensted's Charity, to see if they could provide funding to any resident, who as a result of a scan, struggled to fund rectification work.

It was proposed by Cllr Henderson, seconded by Cllr Perkin and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for the purchase of one FLIR C-Series thermal imaging camera and to develop the wider scheme, such as recruiting and training of volunteers and providing support to residents following a thermal imaging scan. Residents using the service would be encouraged to make a voluntary donation to the charity, FACE.**

043.

Items for Report

COP27 – Cllr Perkin suggested sharing information on COP27, the United Nations Climate Change Conference on the Town Council's Facebook page. Cllr Perkin would provide some material.

Recycling of Household Waste – Cllr Perkin reported on discussions at SBC regarding the impact of incorrect types of household waste being put into recycling bins. Cllr Perkin suggested the Town Council produce some promotional material on the subject. Following a discussion on provisions for those residents who may have waste such as nappies or sanitary wear, Cllr Thomas suggested the Town Clerk contact Alister Andrews, Environment Services Manager at SBC.

Artificial Grass – Martin Collins suggested raising awareness of the use of artificial grass. Cllr Perkins agreed that although this had been covered as part of Great Big Green Week, further promotion was desirable.

044.

Private Session

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkins and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.**

045.

Perry Court Allotments

The Town Clerk reported Barratt David Wilson Homes were proposing to transfer the Perry Court allotments to the Town Council in March 2023. She had yet to clarify whether they would take on the burden of the legal costs of the transfer and to provide a container and to include the parking spaces as part of the transfer. The Town Council already had a long waiting list for allotments.

Cllr Perkins queried whether it could be stipulated that the allotments were pesticide free. The Town Clerk advised this had been stipulated at the other allotments under Town Council control.

Cllr Thomas emphasised the need to clarify what surface would be used for the shared access road and car parking spaces in terms of maintenance liabilities for the Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Reynolds and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to for the Town Clerk to continue discussions with Barratt David Wilson Homes on the transfer of the Perry Court Allotments to the Town Council.**