

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

13th March 2024, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

Cllr Perkin (Chair)	Apology		Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Cook	Present		Cllr Jones	Present
Cllr Crayford	Present		Cllr Newman	Present
Cllr Eyre	Present		Martin Collins	Present
Cllr Gibson	Apology		Matthew Hatchwell	Apology
Cllr C Martin	Present			

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Ted Wilcox (Faversham in Bloom) Minute

068. Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Eyre as the Vice Chair.**

069. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkin (substituted by Cllr C Martin), Cllr Gibson and Cllr Golding.

070. Declarations of Interest

None.

071. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 10th January 2024.**

072. Faversham in Bloom

Received an update from Ted Wilcox (Faversham in Bloom), they also requested help with funding towards next year's budget.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to proceed with a donation to Faversham in Bloom of £500.00 in next year's funding 2024-2025.**

Cllr Cook congratulated Ted Wilcox for all he has done over the years.

073. Bat Boxes

An update was given by the Town Clerk. Kent Bat Group have arranged a visit to recommend where bat boxes could be placed. They have also offered to do a talk and bat walk in the near future, if wanted.

074. Planters

The Town Clerk gave an update on the Planters. Swale Borough Council have cut all floral displays and bedding plants, therefore a quotation was obtained for the following.

- 6 x cosmopolitan cube hire £1788.00 (doesn't include watering).
- 5 x barrier baskets £425.00 + £150.00 delivery.
- 50 x hanging baskets £850.00

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Jones, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to fund the 6 x cosmopolitan cubes, keeping them in the same location.**

Cllr Crayford had a request from a resident regarding a new planter being placed in particular location. The Town Clerk advised to send the information over to investigate with KCC.

075. Stonebridge Pond

Cllr Cook gave an update on the Stonebridge Pond siltation project.

076. Allotments

The Allotments report was received from the Town Ranger.

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree the request for funding from St Nicholas Allotment Association in relation to their water system, and delegate the Town Clerk to review the quotes and get the best value. Agreeing to approve quote amounts of up to £1720.00.**

067. Items for Report

Cllr Crayford wants to produce a list of known hotspots for fly-tipping and discuss how we approach Swale Borough Council on this matter.

FTC Allotment Report

Perry court

A meeting took place on Tuesday 5th of March with potential plot holders regarding the status of the site and any questions that the potential plot holders would like to be answered. The Meeting was a success and several people have volunteered to assist with marking out and setting the plots up in due time. As of now Perry courts waiting list sits at 34 and is continuously growing.

Stonebridge

No issues have currently been reported from Stonebridge allotments. The site is running well, and the plots look to meet the standard of the tenancy agreement. There are currently sixty-two people on the waiting list for the site and this continues to grow.

Millfield

The Town Ranger has recently been assisting on the site by putting in a new fence and clearing a vacant plot. More work is due to be done on the site such as the hedgerow in due time. Millfield currently has 39 people on the waiting list as of now and the site currently has a few vacant plots that are being prepared to be given out to potential tenants.

North Preston

North Preston allotments are due for planned/maintenance this summer. Plots have been let out to new tenants earlier this year, however work still needs to be done. The site currently does not have a committee and the waiting list currently has 13 people awaiting a plot.

St Nicholas

No issues as of now have arisen from St Nicholas allotments the site runs itself very well and the committee have done an excellent job keeping in communication with FTC regarding the waiting list and evicted tenants. The Chair Jennie has requested a grant for their water system as it is in need of a rework, the area needs to be dug out and hardcore standing added plus guttering and fixings, this will enable the tenants to use the water system to their advantage. Furthermore, the site currently has a waiting list of 4 people, and no plots are currently vacant.

RECOMMENDATION: To agree request for funding from St Nicholas Allotment Association to Create hard standing area for 10/12 LBC water containers, behind the container store, in order to rework their water system @ £1,720

Joseph Hannah

Town Ranger

March 2024

Actions and Matters Arising

ITEM	BACKGROUND	PROGRESS
018. Solar Panels in Conservation Areas	Write to SBC	In progress
020. Interpretation panel for Westbrook Stream	New panel approved for Westbrook Stream	In progress
023. Fast Fashion	Cllr Perkin had also been in contact with Community Wardrobe based at Whitstable, who held a fashion swap shop and the Salvation Army who provided clothes and school uniforms. Simone Stolton suggested this could be a good item for a Climate Café and Cllr Perkin agreed to discuss this with her following the meeting.	In progress
031. Perry Court Land	Adopt the area of land being offered by BDW Homes (excluding allotment site, which has already previously been approved).	Solicitor instructed and in progress Inaugural meeting of allotments holders
035. Glass Bottle Recycling	Write to Swale Borough Council and the Supermarkets in the town to request bottle banks to be installed in their car parks.	In progress
041. Environmental Improvements for North Preston	Cllr Cook advised he would consult with the North Preston Residents Association to see if they would participate in the project in terms of maintenance and consult with the Facilities Manager. Cllr Perkin referred to the need to consider possible external funding sources and asked to be kept informed on progress.	In progress

<p>042. Areas for Improvement</p>	<p><u>Trees in Central Car Park</u> Cllr Perkin agreed to write to SBC regarding ways to increase irrigation to the trees in Central Car Park. The state of the brick wall bordering the footpath, which was leaning, would also be included in the letter.</p> <p><u>Rear of Poundland, Bank Street</u> The Town Clerk agreed to write to the landowner regarding clearing of the site and to consult with Poundland on the same issue. Cllr Cook suggested checking the original planning application, stating his belief that the land was always intended to be a community space.</p> <p><u>Sheerways</u> The Town Clerk advised she had contacted Taylor Wimpey, and they had referred the issue to their South Eastern division. A response was awaited.</p>	<p>Letter has been written and a response awaited.</p> <p>No further response from TW, but FTC is in direct talks with resident</p>
<p>043. Graffiti</p>	<p><u>FTC Staff responsibility for the removal of graffiti from private property and the charging scale & Draft Graffiti Policy</u> It was agreed to have further discussions with SBC regarding insurance and staff time and costs, before recommending the draft Graffiti Policy to the Town Council.</p>	<p>Email sent to Martyn Cassell requesting meeting. Response awaited</p>
<p>045. Nutrient Neutrality</p>	<p>Send a follow up letter to SBC Leader from the Mayor</p>	<p>Letter sent and holding response received from Cllr Gibson, SBC Leader (sent to MH for info).</p>
<p>049. Bat Boxes</p>	<p>Contact Kent Bat Group</p>	<p>Town Clerk in contact with Sean from Bat Group</p>

Tree Policy	It was agreed that a Trees Policy should be developed in co-ordination with David Carey and the Tree Wardens. This would be added as an item for next meeting's Agenda and David Carey and Victoria Dickenson would be invited to attend.	In the light of the number of deferred items from December 2023 meeting, this item will be listed in a future meeting to be agreed.
059.	Support the Green Open Homes initiative with Kent County Council	Item has been shared on social media and the Town Council newsletter.
060.	Purchase a second thermal imaging camera	Purchased and in use
064.	Map planters	
065.	Funding for floral displays on lampposts	The cost and timing of licencing to use the lampposts are prohibitive