

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

14th June 2023, 7.30pm
The Town Hall, 12 Market Place

Cllr Williams (Chair)	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr Thomas	Present
Cllr Eyre	Present	Martin Collins	Absent
Cllr Golding	Present	Matthew Hatchwell	Apology
Cllr Newman	Present		

In Attendance:

Rob Gibbs (Assistant to the Town Clerk)

001. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Matthew Hatchwell and Louise Bareham (Town Clerk).

002. Declarations of Interest

None.

003. Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Cllr Perkin to be Vice Chair.**

004. Co-option to Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Matthew Hatchwell and Martin Collins to be co-opted onto the Committee, to be confirmed in writing to them plus a representative from Plastic Free Faversham to be invited to have representation on the Committee.**

005. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Golding, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 8th February 2023 and 8th March 2023.**

Cllr Golding referred to minute item 064 regarding the fitment of solar panels within the Conservation area. It was agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED for Cllr Williams to write to SBC regarding the Review of the Conservation Area and the issue of solar panels.**

006. Terms of Reference

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to amend items 6, 8, 9, 11, to read the as follows:**

6) To identify possible partners, and areas, to create a community woodland.

8) To lead on the reduction of litter, graffiti, and dog waste.

9) Look at all matters affecting street furniture, including benches, planters, and bus shelters.

11) Engage the wider community through various activities, initiatives, and awareness events.

6 VOTES FOR/1 ABST.

007. Development Updates

Stonebridge Pond – It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting due to the absence of Matthew Hatchwell.

Biodiversity – It was agreed this would be covered under Community Gardening.

Pesticide Free Town – For the benefit of new Councillors, Cllr Perkin summarised the achievements in working to make Faversham a Pesticide Free Town. The Town Council had banned use of pesticides in its own operations. In discussion with SBC, new street cleaning and green space contracts now required contractors not to use pesticides. Discussions with KCC were still ongoing. Allotments were also banning the use of pesticides. The possibility of holding a Pesticide Amnesty was discussed. This would be best held in October but would need planning, especially with regards to storage and disposal of chemicals.

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to for Cllr Perkin to draft an article for the Autumn newsletter encouraging residents to clear pathways outside their property.**

Community Gardening – Cllr Williams reported on the work of volunteers who looked after various planters around the town under the guises of the Town Council or Faversham in Bloom and a summary of Faversham in Bloom, South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom, to which Faversham was a finalist in the “Large Town” category.

Cllr Thomas queried whether the new position of Town Ranger would include work on maintaining planters around the town. RG advised he would check this with the Town Clerk.*

** This is included in the role of Town Ranger.*

European Eels, Nutrient Neutrality, and Water/Waste Water – It was agreed to defer these items until the next meeting due to the absence of Matthew Hatchwell.

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Thomas, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to delete the item “Policy” from the Development Updates agenda item.**

008. Bench for Millfield

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Williams, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to purchase a bench and locate it at option 3 at Millfield Play Area.**

009. Allotments

It was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Newman, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to approve the draft management agreement for St Nicholas Allotments.**

Cllr Newman advised the Stonebridge Allotment agreement on the Town Council website had expired and queried the current status of this. RG agreed to check this with the TC.*

** This matter is currently being handled by the Facilities Manager.*

010. Items for Report

Cllr Cook advised he would like to see environmental improvements on the North Preston estate including benches and planters.

Cllr Williams reported he would be looking to invite representatives from FAWWAT to deliver a presentation on water quality.

It was agreed the Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan and the Pesticide Free Action Plan would be put on the agenda for review at the next meeting.

Cllr Perkin referred to her work on fast fashion following discussions with Community Share Wear in Medway and the Community Clothes Bank in Whitstable. It was agreed to include this on the next agenda.