

Environment Committee Meeting

Wednesday 6th December 2023, 7.30pm The Guildhall

Cllr Perkin
Cllr Newman
Simone Stolton

Cllr Golding
Cllr Eyre
Martin Collins

Cllr Cook

Matthew Hatchwell

Dear Committee Member

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND a meeting of Faversham Town Council's Environment Committee to take place at The Guildhall, on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7.30pm when the following business will be transacted. This meeting will be hybrid and members of the public may attend via Zoom.

Yours sincerely

Louise Bareham

Louise Bareham FSLCC
Town Clerk

A maximum of 15 minutes to be allowed to receive public questions and comments on items on the Agenda.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive apologies for absence
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest for items listed on the Agenda
3. **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**
To agree the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 19th October 2023 and any matters arising:
4. **Environmental Improvements for North Preston**
To consider the Action Plan for improvements to North Preston. See Appendix for response from SBC.
5. **Areas for Improvement**
To consider the following areas for improvement:

- **Trees in Central Car Park** To agree to liaise with SBC on ways to increase drainage to the trees
- **Rear of Poundland, Bank Street** To agree to contact the landowner regarding clearing of the site (previously landlord has declined our offer raising concerns the land may be listed as an asset of community value – an application to list)
- **Sheerways** To consider improvement to a small area of land currently shown on the Land Registry in the ownership of Taylor Wimpey

6. **Graffiti**

- To consider and agree the draft action plan.
- To consider whether FTC staff should be responsible for the removal of graffiti from private property and the charging scale.
- To consider and agree the draft policy.

7. **Siltation at Stonebridge Pond**

Swale Borough Council has offered £10,000 towards the proposed £30,000 consultancy work at Stonebridge Pond. Matthew Hatchwell to provide verbal report.

To discuss potential funding from Faversham Town Council towards the work.

8. **Nutrient Neutrality**

To agree to send a follow up letter from the Mayor.

9. **World Heritage Nomination**

To consider supporting RSPB in its idea of a World Heritage nomination for a UK East Coast flyway “serial site” that would include Oare Marshes and other wetlands along the Swale. Details

at <https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/rspb-england/posts/a-bid-to-make-the-uk-s-wild-bird-superhighway-a-new-world-heritage-site>.

10. **Strategic Pillars and Ambitions**

To consider the strategic pillars and ambitions and make comments and recommendations.

11. **Environment Events**

To agree events for 2024.

12. **Bat Boxes**

- To agree to work with a bat organisation, such as the Kent Bat Group, to ensure bat boxes are located in appropriate places.

- To agree to the purchase of bat boxes made by Faversham Umbrella and Abbey Physic's Men's Shed.
- To consider running an event to highlight bats, such as International Bat Appreciation Day 17th April 2024.

13. **Planters**

To review the list of planters and discuss a policy for agreeing locations of planters going forward.

14. **Flooding**

To discuss flooding.

15. **Perry Court**

To receive an update.

16. **Budget 2024/25**

To consider projects and funding requirements for 2024/25 budget.

17. **Allotments**

To receive an allotment report.

18. **Items for Report**

Future Agenda items

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118624238?pwd=V2cwbHIINEdkd0N0YStoTzNCcUI2QT09>

Item 5 Environmental Improvements for North Preston – Response from Swale Borough Council

General

Is this what the community want can you pass over all the consultation undertaken

Fencing

In terms of the fencing it will need to comply with BS EN 1176 i.e. 1m bow topped galvanised fencing inclusive of 1m corner posts etc, at least 2x self—closing (outward) gates plus 1x 3m lockable maintenance gate. There would also need to be a maintenance budget (there would probably be increased maintenance costs for the term contractor) and/or a formal agreement releasing maintenance responsibility to the town council

What is the intention with the existing bollards?

Wildflower Areas

Don't have any great issue with "wildflower areas", but they are never hugely successful unless there is a resource to care properly for them, also we cant have them interfering with the informal football pitch. Might be helpful if you could give us an indication of what maintenance will be done and who will do it – if you are expecting our term contractor to do it there will be a cost implication which will need to be picked up

Trees

We wouldn't recommend either tree species, typically birch hasn't performed well in recent years and black poplar doesn't offer any great addition in a tree sense. Can you review this and come back to me. Also how /what do you intend for maintenance/watering.

Benches

We don't have a problem with benches as long as neighbours are happy with them being opposite their properties. They need to be on bases to prevent wear and sitting with your feet in a puddle of water.