

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

8th May 2024, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

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

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

078. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Crayford and Cllr Golding.

079. Declarations of Interest

None.

080. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 13th March 2024.**

081. Fly Tipping Hotspots

This item has been deferred to the next meeting.

082. No Mow May

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to sign up to the pledge.**

083. Bats

A discussion was had regarding the Kent Bat Group and bat boxes. Kent Bat Group have offered to hold a day or half day craft sessions (Friday or Saturdays in the holidays and bat walks help in June/July.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to purchase the bat boxes and agree to give permission for the Town Clerk to go ahead and organise the events offered.**

084. Kent Wilder Town Awards

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Matthew? and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to participate in the Kent Wilder Town Awards.**

085. Allotments

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to agree a price of up to £1000 for the waste management costs.***

067. Items for Report

Update on Street Tree Policy

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 &</u> <u>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 083.</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
082.	Sign up to No Mow May	

