

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

12th June 2024, 7.30pm
The Guildhall

Cllr C Martin (Chair)	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr Perkin	Apology
Cllr Coniam	Present		
Cllr Eyre	Present	Martin Collins	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present	Matthew Hatchwell	Apologies

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

087. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkin and Cllr Golding.

088. Declarations of Interest

None.

089. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 8th May 2024.**

090. Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Eyre as the Vice Chair of the Environment Committee.**

091. Co-option of Non-Council Members

Awaiting to receive forms from Martin Collins- Representative of Friends of the Earth.

092. Terms of Reference

Cllr Cook felt that in reference to No5 on the *TOR (To work towards achieving Pesticide Free Town Status and promote the use of alternative methods)*, that as a council we should publicise this more.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Terms of Reference.**

093. Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Plan

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Eyre and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to make the following amendment- remove the last sentence regarding vegan plant-based food.**

It was proposed by Cllr Eyre, seconded by Cllr Coniam and on being put to the meeting, it was **RESOLVED to add to the Action Plan about working towards achieving Pesticide Free Town Status.**

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED adopt the amended action plan.**

094. Benches

Cllrs discussed where they thought might be good locations for new benches around Faversham. The following areas were suggested;

- Reedland Crescent green area
- Horsford Walk area
- Front Brents- Crab Island

Surveys need to be carried out in these areas.

The Town Clerk noted the bench that had been damaged by a car running into the Westbrook Stream. Unfortunately the bench had been donated by a member of the public and it was the second time it had been damaged.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to agree to purchase a replacement bench at the price of £600 and refix the plaque that was on the previous bench. We must liaise with the previous donors of the bench to make sure they're happy with this before proceeding.**

095. Planter Update

6 planters have been placed; Facilities Manager is responsible for watering them twice a week. Cllr Cook asked about the planters near Sainsburys and at the top of The Mall. The Town Clerk informed that new plants have been purchased for them already.

096. Bat Walk and Activities

Sean and Liz have offered to do a bat walk. The route is around the church, along the footpath and into Abbey Physic Gardens (we need to liaise with them, to see if it will be possible to open at night for this). This will be for 20-25 people, and it will need to be booked. It will take place on Friday 9th August 2024. On Saturday 10th August they will be at 12 Market Place doing activities.

097. Allotments

An update was received from Facilities. North Preston allotments new lock has been vandalised and a new replacement barrel will need to be installed. Cllr Eyres and the Facilities team are planning on doing an inspection at the site soon. Cllr Coniam mentioned the overgrown areas on the footpath that runs through Millfield allotment, we need to find out who owns the footpath, as to who is responsible for its upkeep. It was noted that the report had been seen by the councillors.

098. Items for Report

Find out who's responsible for footpaths.

Open Faversham

Meeting finished 20:21

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 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	

