

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

12<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30pm  
The Guildhall

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

### In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

**A presentation was delivered by David Carey of Faversham Volunteer Tree Wardens prior to the start of the meeting – see slides attached.**

### 136. Apologies for Absence

None.

### 137. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gibson Minute Item 142 as now an Allotment Holder.

### 138. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**

Matthew Hatchwell provided an update on a paper on siltation in Stonebridge Pond that he had written.

### 139. Faversham Town Tree Strategy

Matthew Hatchwell emphasised the importance of working with local community groups when implementing the Faversham Town Tree Strategy.

Cllr Gibson suggested adding the use of street trees when planning Active Travel interventions as had previously been discussed. Continuing he felt due to geographical differences between the wards a target of 20% additional tree coverage across the town would be more achievable.

Martin Collins referred to the possible future movement of the mobile phone mast in Central Car Park and whether trees could be planted where it currently stands. Cllr Perkin agreed to write to Swale BC to see if that could be done if/when the mast is moved.

Cllr Gibson explored the possibility of including the points raised in the Tree Strategy in a future version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Perkin referred to the need to seek advice on the canopy cover requirements of the 20% target. Matthew Hatchwell queried whether the Tree Wardens would be willing to act in a secretariat role.

Cllr Perkin thanked the Tree Wardens for their work in developing the draft Strategy. It was agreed that the above queries would be raised with them with a view to bringing back the Tree Strategy for approval at the next meeting.

**140. Budget 2025-2026**

It was noted that the Committee's budget requirements had been discussed at the Budget Workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**141. Perry Court**

The Town Clerk provided an update on the transfer of Perry Court to the Town Council.

**142. Allotments**

The Allotments Report was noted.

**143. Items for Report**

Bysing Wood

Matthew Hatchwell raised the issue of the use of off-road bikes in the woods at Bysing Wood. Cllr Newman referred to the Police action including the confiscation of bikes over the previous weekend. It was agreed that further liaison with Cllr Crayford and the Police was required.

The Meeting concluded at 8:35pm.