

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

8th January 2025, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

Cllr C Martin	Present	Cllr Golding	Apology
Cllr Cook	Present	Cllr Perkin	Present
Cllr Coniam	Present		
Cllr Eyre	Present	Martin Collins	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present	Matthew Hatchwell	Apology

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

144. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Golding and Matthew Hatchwell.

145. Declarations of Interest

None.

146. 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 November 2024.**

147. Water Quality Working Group

It was proposed by Cllr Eyre, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Water Quality Working Group dated 18th December 2024.**

It was noted that the response to the Consultation on Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 had been submitted by the deadline of 23rd December 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Water Quality Working Group Terms of Reference subject to the inclusion of Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council, Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board, and a future Unitary Council and Mayor as organisations to engage with.**

148. Reports

Pesticide Free Status – Cllr Perkin provided an update following the award of Pesticide Free status. She had developed a draft policy following advice from Pesticide Action Network UK. It was agreed that the draft policy should refer to the ban on the use of Pesticides on all Town Council allotment sites.

The Town Clerk agreed to investigate possible Pesticide Free signage for the allotment sites.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Pesticide Free Policy subject to the inclusion of the statement on Town Council Allotments.**

Stonebridge Pond Siltation – Cllr Cook provided an update on discussions with Matthew Hatchwell. It was hoped that a report would be ready in March.

Town Tree Strategy – Cllr Perkin provided an update on the Town Tree Strategy. It was noted the Town Council would need to be realistic on what it could achieve within its remit.

149. Perry Court

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to begin work to set up Perry Court Allotments including fencing, container, and signage, without the compost toilet initially.**

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It was agreed that options for the compost toilet would be explored further to see if one could be sourced at a more reasonable cost.

150. Sunflower Competition

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to run the Sunflower Seed Giveaway and Tallest Sunflower Competition from April 2025.**

151. Environmental Awareness Dates/Events

The following activities were noted:

The Great British Spring Clean – Friday 21st March to Sunday 6th April 2025
Earth Hour – Saturday 22nd March 2025 8.30pm-9.30pm
Great Big Green Week – 7th-15th June 2025 with an Eco Fair at the Rec run by SBC.

152. Allotments

There was no update report for this meeting but one would be provided at the next meeting on 12th February 2025.

153. Items for Report

Creek Bridge – Cllr Cook expressed his thanks to the Facilities Team for laying salt on the Creek Bridge following a complaint from a member of the public. They also liaised with KCC, and a salt bin has been placed there. The Town Clerk reported that the Facilities Manager was also checking the bridge regularly on cold mornings.

Water Quality – Fresh Water Species – Cllr Perkin referred to a newspaper article stating that around a quarter of freshwater species were facing extinction worldwide.

The Faversham Natural History Group – The Town Clerk reported that the Faversham Natural History Group had set up a website and were looking for

new members. It was agreed that the Town Council should collaborate with them in future regarding their monthly talks.

Stag Beetle Counts – Cllr Coniam requested the Town Council promote the Stag Beetle counts undertaken by the People’s Trust for Endangered Species.

The Town Clerk referred to examples of species reporting work being carried out by Frome TC and would investigate further to see how this could work in Faversham.

The Meeting concluded at 8:27pm.