

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

12th February 2025, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

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

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Public Questions

A member of the public queried the waiting list for St Nicholas Allotments. The Facilities Manager's Report stated there was no one on the waiting list but the Report recently sent through by the Town Ranger had stated 3 were on the waiting list. It was agreed this would be checked with the Facilities Team.

Secretary's Note:

There is currently nobody on the waiting list and Jenny Boxall – Chair, asked the Facilities Team, to advertise vacant plots.

154. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Gibson, Golding, Perkin, and Martin Collins.

155. Declarations of Interest

None.

156. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Eyre, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 8th January 2025.**

157. Reports

Pesticide Free Status – No update

Town Tree Strategy – No update

Stonebridge Pond Siltation/Water Quality – Matthew Hatchwell provided an update following a visit by Josh Hammond of the Environment Agency who leads on monitoring and citizen science in Kent and South East London. Mr Hammond delivered a workshop on water quality monitoring on 10th February. Members of FAVWAT and Friends of the Westbrook attended.

A matrix was being developed to set out the parameters for water quality testing at the various sites and this would be sent to Mr Hammond for his input. The groups could then carry out the testing on a regular basis.

Matthew Hatchwell discussed various future objectives for the Water Quality Working Group including the goals for water quality monitoring at each site.

Cllr Cook summarised some future work on surveying silt levels, and it was agreed this would be discussed at a future Water Quality Working Group meeting.

158. Hazebrouck Road Bench

Following the recent consultation, the Town Clerk confirmed Option B was the preferred location for the bench.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to install the bench in Option B at Hazebrouck Road.**

159. Sunflower Competition

The paper providing an update on the Sunflower Competition was noted.

160. Great British Spring Clean

The Town Clerk advised the Town Ranger had arranged a litter pick in each ward during the period 21st March – 6th April.

161. Great Big Green Week

A discussion was held on Swale Borough Council's Eco Fair at Faversham Rec on 14th June. It was agreed to have a stall giving away seedballs as part of the event. Cllr Coniam confirmed she would attend and make some seedballs in addition to giving away pre-made seedballs.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to purchase 250 boxes of seedballs and equipment to make further seedballs at the GBGW Eco Fair at Faversham Rec on 14th June.**

162. Planters/Floral Displays/Bulbs

The Town Clerk referred to her paper detailing two quotes for planters.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to:**

1) Proceed with Supplier 2: Quotation No. AM250211FAVERSHAM

Items & Costs:

- **6 Flower Tower 3 Tier Black Planted – £1,248.00**
- **Carriage (Delivery, Installation, Removal & Collection) – £800.00**

Total Cost (Excl. VAT): £2,048.00

2) Order a tow bar and bowser to enable the Facilities Team to maintain the planters.

- 3) *Order replacement signage for Faversham in Bloom up to the sum of £300.*
- 4) *The Town Clerk to obtain a quote from Supplier 2 for barrier baskets.*

163. Allotments

The Allotment Report was received and noted.

An update was provided on the new Perry Court site. A container had been delivered to the site, and it was planned to repaint this green.

Cllr C Martin advised she planned to carry out allotment inspections in due course.

164. Items for Report

It was agreed to include the following on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Sunflower Competition
- Pumpkin Growing Competition between the Allotment Sites
- Open Faversham
- Action Plan 2025/2026
- Town Tree Strategy

The Meeting concluded at 8:18pm.