

Faversham Town Council

Water Quality Working Group Minutes

Via Teams 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr C Martin, Martin Collins, David Hadley, Matthew Hatchwell, Ken Pugh, Liz Tootell, Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

**1. Election of a Chair**

It was agreed that Cllr C Martin would Chair the Water Quality Working Group.

**Action MH**

Matthew Hatchwell agreed to liaise with Lesley Seager of the Cooksditch Stream Group, to see if she would like to join the Working Group, as well as the Oare Gunpowder Works Volunteers, and the Faversham Angling Club.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Coniam

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4. Terms of Reference**

**Action MH/LB**

Following a discussion on suggested revisions to the draft Terms of Reference, it was agreed that Matthew Hatchwell would send the revised draft to the Town Clerk for circulation to members of the Working Group.

**5. Actions from Environment Committee**

**Action DH/RG/LB**

David Hadley agreed to check over the draft letters to the Natural England and the Environment Agency and work with Rob Gibbs on the letters. The revised drafts would be circulated by the Town Clerk.

**Action DH**

David Hadley would also draft a response to the Consultation on Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013, the deadline for which is 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024. Liz Tootell would also arrange a submission on behalf of the Faversham Creek Trust.

**6. Environment Agency Meeting**

An update was provided following a recent meeting with Josh Hammond (Citizens Science Advisor) of the Environment Agency. The River Fly system of monitoring invertebrates was discussed as well as methods of monitoring sewage outflows, industrial discharges, point source pollution, diffuse pollutants. It was agreed that an initial baseline was needed so data collected subsequently could be compared. Josh Hammond will be carrying out a training session with local groups using EA equipment.

It was agreed that the results of water testing could be published in the Town Council's newsletter as well as a call for more volunteers. It was noted that any material for an article would be required by the first week of February for inclusion in the March 2025 edition.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at 7:30pm via Teams.

The meeting concluded at 8.32pm.