

Date **11/03/2026**
Time **7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**
Location **The Guildhall**
Attendees ***Cllrs Charles Gibson, Claire Martin, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders, Kieran Golding, Laura Coniam, Peter Cook, Martin Collins, Matthew Hatchwell***
In Attendance ***Stacey Woolf, Adrienne Begent***

Environment Committee Meeting

Environment Committee
Faversham Town Council

To All Members of the Environment Committee

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND a meeting of Faversham Town Council's Environment Committee to take place at The Guildhall, on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm when the following business will be transacted. This meeting will be hybrid and members of the public may attend via Teams.

Yours sincerely



Louise Bareham FSLCC

Town Clerk

A maximum of 15 minutes to be allowed to receive public questions and comments on items on the Agenda.

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1 - Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2 - Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest for items listed on the Agenda .

3 - Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

To receive the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 11th February 2026 and any matters arising.

Attachments

[Environment Committee Minutes 11.02.26.pdf](#)

Environment Committee Minutes

11 February 2026 at 7:30pm

The Guildhall

Cllr C Martin	Present	Cllr Rowlands	Substitute
Cllr Coniam	Present		
Cllr Cook	Present		
Cllr Gibson	Apology	Martin Collins	Absent
Cllr Golding	Apology	Matthew Hatchwell	Present
Cllr Perkin	Apology		

In attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Stacey Woolf (Facilities Manager)

Public Questions:

None

227 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gibson (substituted by Cllr Rowlands), Cllr Golding, and Cllr Perkin.

228 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting dated 14th January 2026.**

Decision: The previous minutes were approved unanimously.

229 Facilities Update

Stacey Woolf provided an update from the Facilities Team:

Allotments

Stonebridge.

- Working parties have been clearing along the waterways to help the flow of water.
- Siltex has been added to the pond, which will help to break down the silt.
- Stonebridge has a waiting list of 66 people.

Millfield.

- All plots are now allocated.
- Working parties are starting on-site to tackle outstanding jobs.
- The chair has asked for help filling in the potholes on the track; a week's hire of an excavator and mini dumper will cost £844. This would also help with other tasks; the committee would purchase the ton bags of MOT and gravel.

- We have started work on the community plot, which we have now taken on. We have cleared a lot of the site and started to take up the unsafe decking. We will then level the site to make it more manageable.
- Signs have been put up on all entrances to the allotment stating that we are pesticide-free, and anyone using/spraying pesticides on their plot and any other areas will be removed from the allotment site.
- A letter will be sent out explaining the reasons for banning the use of pesticides on the allotment. The allotment holder in question had also received a verbal warning.
- Millfield has a waiting list of 44 people.

St Nicholas.

- There are 3 vacant plots on the site.
- A new site map has been drawn up, showing the current plots held.
- St Nicholas has a waiting list of 6 people.

Perry Court.

- All plots are allocated.
- The Facilities team would like to do a project around the orchard, which would include putting in rustic chestnut fencing, some bee hotels and a beehive area, which some of the plot holders would like to get involved in.
- Since the allotment site had now been in operation for a year, the Facilities Manager requested clarification on when to start collection rents.
- A meeting had taken place with David Clark and CPC regarding grounds maintenance and the replacement of trees. CPC will prune dead wildflower areas, as this needs to be done once a year, FTC will keep to the mowing schedule around the site.
- The dog waste bin is not going to be replaced as the residents did not want the dog waste bins on site. David Clark is removing them.
- Perry Court has 1 on the waiting list.

Cllr Cook requested clarification on whether dog waste bins were required as part of the planning application. Cllr Rowlands clarified that SBC and KCC had no responsibilities in the area as it was a private estate. SBC had removed separate dog waste bins and dog waste was being put into normal rubbish bins.

The Town Clerk asked the Facilities Manager to organise an AGM to establish a committee, invite plot holders and raise the issue of rent at the AGM.

Cllr C Martin referred to 4 proposals from Green Council Biodiversity Solutions. It was agreed the costs were prohibitive. Cllr Cook requested

the planning application for Perry Court be checked for biodiversity survey work.

North Preston.

- North Preston has a waiting list of 10 people with 2 vacant plots currently.

Faversham in Bloom.

- A date for the next meeting was awaited from Ted Wilcox.

Following some concern raised by members of Faversham in Bloom, Cllr Cook suggested contacting Ted Wilcox to see if there were any issues.

Town Planters.

- A new planter has been installed at Lower Rd and has been planted up.
- Weekly checks are carried out on the planters

Benches report.

- Regular checks are being carried out on the benches and FTC plaques are being fitted.

Other.

- The Facilities Team was to plant a tree on Stonebridge Pond's feeding area.

230 River Stour

Matthew Hatchwell provided a summary of his paper entitled "Rights of Rivers and the Friends of the Kentish Stour".

The committee expressed support for the initiative and discussed the potential benefits of adopting a similar approach for local rivers. There was a suggestion to coordinate efforts with the Creek Trust and involve the community in the process. The committee agreed to continue monitoring the initiative in Canterbury and consider ways to implement similar measures locally.

Cllr Coniam agreed to write an article for the Town Council newsletter in June.

231 Oare Gunpowder Works

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was *RESOLVED* to confirm the engagement of solicitors and to proceed with the transfer of the lease.

232 Events

The Town Clerk provided an update on planned events for:

- Sunflower Competition

It was planned to launch the Sunflower Competition at the FTC Spring Fair on 28th March. The Competition will run through until the end of July. Brogdale have agreed to sponsor the prizes again this year.

- Bees

Simon Springate Kent's Plan Bee Project Officer has agreed to provide a talk at Faversham Assembly Rooms on World Bee Day on 20th May highlighting the rare breeds that can be found in the Faversham area.

During Bees' Needs Week (mid-July) it is planned to run an exhibition at the Town Hall. Again, Simon Springate has agreed to work on the content as well as providing some resources for people to take away.

- Hedgehogs

During Hedgehog Awareness Week (4th-10th May) it is planned to run a social media campaign highlighting the difficulties they face and signposting to local charities.

It is also planned to hold a further talk at the Guildhall with Audrey from Hogwinkles in the Autumn.

- Bat Walks

Liz Vinson from the Kent Bat Group has agreed to help with training potential volunteers who could lead regular bat walks.

233 Items for Report

- Update on Gunpowder Works
- Dog Waste Bins and provision from SBC
- Waste and Fly tipping

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

4 - Facility Manager's Update

To receive the Facility Manager's Report.

Attachments

[FTC ALLOTMENT REPORT 20.pdf](#)

FTC ALLOTMENT REPORT.

Stonebridge.

All is working well on site.

Working parties have been clearing along the waterways and ivy from the wall near flood lane. The ivy is getting into the wall, and the mortar needs replacing.

An email from the Chair:

Good morning, chaps.

As discussed yesterday, I enclose the photos of the damage to the blast wall adjacent to the purifier building.

This was evident after we removed the ivy on Saturday.

The ivy has penetrated the mortar joints and is pushing the bricks apart.

This will need raking out and repointing with the appropriate mortar.

Our question is, who will pay for and carry out the work?

We also looked at other parts of the blast wall which have the same problem.

The Committee are not going to tackle these areas unless we are given the clearance to do so.

There are also other parts of the wall adjacent to the wooden hoarding which are already crumbling.

The relevant plot holder has refused to work on the plot due to falling bricks.

Can these issues be raised with the appropriate authority/ person to review and resolve the damage to the (grade 2 listed) wall?

I gather that there is a council meeting today, which includes a review of the blast wall.

Can these issues be added to the agenda, please or direct me to the person whom I can contact to speak to them.





Fencing work along Davington Road: some rotten fence posts are being replaced to keep the fence up.

Stonebridge has a waiting list of 64 people.

Millfield.

All is working well on site.

Millfield has a waiting list of 37 people.

St Nicholas.

As far as I'm aware, there is a vacant plot on the site x 1.

St Nic's has a waiting list of 2 People.

Perry Court.

Plot holders have been informed that we would like to establish a committee to oversee allotments and gauge interest in forming one.

CPC are replacing some of the dead trees on site and has mapped them. 33 new trees have been planted.,



CPC have cut the dead wildflower areas, as this needs to be done once a year, and they have the right equipment to do this work, which is a brush cutting this will need to be done in September.

Mowing will start in March on the site.

We are measuring around the orchard for chestnut rails 9ft 6" and posts 6ft 6" with two mortises, the area marked in red with two openings



Perry Court has 1 on the waiting list.

North Preston.

All is well on the site.

North Preston has a waiting list of 7 people.

Faversham in bloom.

I have started to arrange a meeting for the in bloom this will be coming soon.

Town Planters.

Other.

A decision has been made to take down the tree to about 6ft, and we have the go-ahead. Work will start on the 3rd of March.



Stacey Woolf

Facilities Manager

February 2026

5 - Illegal Fishing at Stonebridge Pond

To consider actions to prevent illegal fishing at Stonebridge Pond.

6 - Environment Events

To receive reports on the proposed events.

Attachments

[Climate Action Weekend 24th and 25th April 2026.pdf](#)

[Environment Events - Update for Environment Committee March 2026.pdf](#)

Climate Action Weekend with Sam Baker

Two Inspiring Events That Could Change How You See the World

Meet Sam Baker - a grandfather on a mission! This former Deloitte strategy partner turned climate campaigner has an incredible story. After 30+ years in management consulting, the birth of his grandson in 2021 sparked a complete life transformation. Now he's walking from London to Glasgow for climate conferences, facilitating workshops worldwide, and helping businesses reimagine their future.

Friday, 24th April • 7pm • Assembly Rooms, Preston Street

"Time for Change"

A 75-minute talk and discussion led by Sam Baker exploring the polycrisis of climate breakdown, biodiversity loss and social inequality. The session examines how our current economic and social systems drive these crises, and why a fundamental shift in priorities is now unavoidable. Together, we'll explore what must change, and how, to secure a safe future for all children and generations to come.

Saturday, 25th April • 10am • Assembly Rooms, Preston Street

"Climate Fresk"

A 3 hour interactive and immersive workshop introducing the science of climate change through a collaborative, card-based exercise. Guided by Sam Baker, a trained facilitator, participants work together to explore the causes, mechanisms and impacts of climate breakdown, building a shared understanding grounded in science. The session creates space for discussion, reflection and connection, helping participants move from awareness to agency in responding to the climate crisis.

Environment Events 2026

- Sunflower Competition

I am currently preparing to launch the 2026 Sunflower Competition at the Spring Fair at St Mary of Charity on 28th March.

Brogdale has agreed to sponsor the prizes of family orchard passes again. I am seeking agreement for the Alexander Centre, West Faversham Community Centre, Faversham Umbrella, and the Visitor Information Centre to be seed collection points.

Social media posts and physical posters will start to be displayed in the lead up to 28th March.

- Bees

World Bee Day — 20 May

I am working with Simon Springate, Kent's Plan Bee Project Officer, on a talk at Faversham Assembly Rooms on bee species that can be found in Faversham.

Bees' Needs Week — mid-July

I am working with Simon again on an exhibition at the Town Hall on bees and what local residents can do to encourage bees into their gardens. There will be resources that visitors can take away.

- Hedgehogs

Hedgehog Awareness Week – 4-10 May

I plan to develop a social media campaign during the week highlighting the following:

- Daily posts:
 - Day 1: Why hedgehogs need help
 - Day 2: Garden dangers
 - Day 3: Feeding safely
 - Day 4: Highways
 - Day 5: What to do if you find one and signposting to local charities
- Encourage people to share garden photos

Also, in October/November I plan to arrange another talk from Audrey at Hogwinkles to raise awareness of the rescue work she undertakes with Autumn Orphans.

Budget required: £200 (Charity donation)

- Bats

Following a recent social media post advertising for potential volunteer bat walk leaders, 20 people expressed an interest in helping. Thus far 5 people have returned forms (including Cllr Coniam, and Cllr Gibson).

I am working with Liz Vinson from Kent Bat Group on some classroom training followed by a practical walk expedition to some of the bat hotspots in Faversham. We can then arrange some walks subject to volunteer availability.

7 - Oare Gunpowder Works

To consider the recommendations in the report and to receive the draft reports from Purcell Architects (tabled).

Attachments

[Oare Gunpowder Report 11.03.26.pdf](#)

Environment Committee Report 11th March 2026

Oare Gunpowder Works Visitor Centre – Design Approach and Operational Model

Background

As previously reported, Swale Borough Council indicated its willingness to assign the lease of the Visitor Centre and surrounding land at Oare Gunpowder Works to Faversham Town Council and Heads of Terms have now been received.

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, requiring sensitive design and management approaches. As outlined in the initial feasibility report, the transfer aligns strongly with the Town Council's strategic objectives around:

- Community engagement
- Environmental education and biodiversity
- Heritage conservation

Funding of £60,000 has been identified by Swale Borough Council to support feasibility work, design and the necessary permissions associated with the site and £20,000 has been utilised for works by Purcell Architects to date.

Following initial discussions, Purcell have produced a range of potential design approaches for the Visitor Centre.

Design Options

Purcell have developed design concepts to support the long-term operation of the site while respecting the heritage significance and ecological sensitivity of the landscape.

Having considered the options presented, the Low Impact proposal is recommended.

Key Benefits of the Low Impact Approach

- Sensitive design appropriate for a Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Reduced construction costs compared to more extensive redevelopment

This approach aligns closely with the Council's environmental objectives and the expectation that development within the site should be light-touch where possible.

Café Offer – Kiosk Model

The original proposal suggested exploring a concession-operated café. Following further consideration, it is recommended that the hospitality offer is scaled to a kiosk-style operation, but with an option to operate as a full café, to be directly staffed by employees of the Town Council.

Further investigation works will be undertaken, including visits to councils operating similar models.

Legal Works

Two proposals have been obtained for full due diligence as follows:

Proposal A - £6,495 + VAT, plus any disbursements.

Proposal B - £6,600 + VAT, plus any disbursements

Recommendations

The Environment Committee is asked to recommend that the Town Council:

1. Supports the Low Impact design proposal prepared by Purcell Architects.
2. Agreed to engage solicitors to act on our behalf.

8 - Matters Arising

Items for the next agenda.

Report on waste and flytipping will be provided at a future meeting.