

## Environment Committee Minutes

11 March 2026 at 7:30pm

The Guildhall

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

### In attendance:

Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

Stacey Woolf (Facilities Manager)

### Public Questions:

Maria Newman provided an update on St Nicholas Allotment site. 2 allotments had been assigned to new tenants, and a further plot was due to be re-assigned. The waiting list had been cleared as a result.

### 234 Apologies for Absence

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

### 235 Declarations of Interest

None.

### 236 Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, subject to a minor amendment regarding Martin Collins being in attendance and noted in the minutes as absent.**

Stacey Woolf provided an update Siltex treatment for Cooksditch Stream. It was agreed to include this on the next meeting agenda as part of a wider discussion about the streams in the area, once it was determined how many treatments would be required.

### 237 Facilities Update

Stacey Woolf provided an update from the Facilities Team.

#### Stonebridge Allotment

Removal of ivy which has caused damage to the wall bordering the allotment site. It was agreed to contacting Swale BC due to the wall being listed prior to any survey or rectification work commencing.

Cllr C Martin referred to complaints received regarding bonfires being lit on the site. Once the emails had been received, she would send details to Stacey Woolf for action.

Stonebridge Allotments waiting list stood at 64.

#### Millfield Allotments

The waiting list stood at 37.

Cllr Coniam referred to a plot holder continuing to use pesticides. Stacey Woolf advised this had been referred to the Committee but would follow this up following Cllr Coniam's report.

#### Perry Court Allotments

Correspondence had been sent to plot holders regarding forming a committee.

CPC Contractors had been replacing dead trees – 33 new trees had been planted. Areas of dead wildflowers had also been cut back.

The waiting list stood at 1.

#### North Preston Allotments

The waiting list stood at 7.

#### Faversham In Bloom

Stacey Woolf advised he had taken over the organisation of meetings of the volunteer group.

Cllr C Martin requested that Stacey Woolf provided a report showing a breakdown of how much of the Facilities Team's work was spent on environmental projects. Stacey Woolf agreed to provide this.

### **238 Illegal Fishing at Stonebridge Pond**

Cllr C Martin advised she had been made aware of illegal fishing taking place at night. She had made local residents aware and asked they keep their eye on any movements. Matthew Hatchwell advised an allotment holder had reported the illegal fishing to Graeme Tuff of SBC. Carp was being targeted. Incidents had also been reported to the Police. The Police had advised they couldn't act because there was an absence of signs stating, "No Fishing". SBC has advised they were planning to install some.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to email Graeme Tuff to offer to purchase appropriate signage and for SBC to reimburse FTC.**

### **239 Environmental Events**

The report on Environmental Events was noted:

- Climate Action Weekend 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
- Sunflower Competition
- World Bee Day – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
- Bees' Needs Week – mid-July
- Hedgehog Awareness Week 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
- Bat Walk Volunteer Training – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **240 Oare Gunpowder Works**

The report was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to support the low impact design proposal prepared by Purcell Architects.***

**1 ABST.**

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to engage solicitors under proposal B.***

**1 ABST.**

### **241 Items for Report**

- Discussion on Streams in the area
- Report from the Facilities Manager on time spent on environmental projects
- Town Fauna survey – report from Cllr Coniam

***The meeting closed at 8.30pm.***