

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

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

### In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

### Public Questions

None

#### 165. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Golding, substituted by Cllr Saunders, Cllrs Eyre and Coniam.

#### 166. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 167. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were deferred.

#### 168. Stonebridge Pond

Chalk application work needs to be undertaken during the winter. Natural England and EA have come back with no issues, but to check with the MMO. Should be on track for work in November and going forward an annual application. Key data is depth before applying chalk. 1 tonne of chalk £650-700 and cost of application is similar, so £1,300 in total.

Cllr Cook proposed, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to contribute 50% of the costs, assuming SBC will pay 50%. £10,000 to remain in earmarked reserves to cover future costs.***

Matthew Hatchwell to write an article for the September newsletter to explain the process, as the water will be discoloured.

Cllr Cook proposed, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to place a sign at the pond to confirm the works being undertaken.***

#### 169. Annual Action Plan

The draft action plan was considered. Cllr Cook suggested new benches to be branded Faversham Town Council. Further additions included the Street

Tree Document; recognising more national campaigns such as GBGW, Great British Spring Clean; graffiti action plan; the council's push to net zero; climate and environmental sustainability actions; looking after the FTC planters and ensuring they were branded.

The Facilities Manager was asked to look at the planters by Sainsbury's.

Annual action plan to come back next month.

**170. Perry Court**

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin, seconded by Cllr Gibson and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to install knee high fencing at the entrance to the land at Perry Court at £954 and for hedging to be planted at a later date.***

The Facilities Manager was asked to confirm that no planning permission is required.

**171. Events**

The sunflower competition report was noted, as was the promotion on social media.

SBC's Eco Fair – confirmation on ingredients for seed bombs is required from Cllr Coniam. Branded seed bomb boxes have arrived.

Other notable dates to recognised were agreed as follows:

Earth Day 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
No Mow May  
World Bee Day 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Let it Bloom June  
World Environment Day 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Great Big Green Week 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Bike Week 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Clean Air Day 15<sup>th</sup> June  
Plastic Free July  
The big bug count – citizen science project.

There was a suggestion for someone who could give a talk on bees and check with the Bumble Bee Trust, plus an event with hedgehogs to promote 'No Mow May' and 'Let it Bloom June' to keep hogs safe from strimmers.

**172. Dog Waste Dispensers**

Concerns were raised about dog waste not being binned but thrown instead. Dog waste bags can be put in general waste now. Cllr Cook questioned whether a bin at the Front Brents could be re-sited. Cllr Gibson proposed, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to purchase 3 additional dog waste bins as existing at a cost of £600.***

The Facilities Manager was asked to organise spraying of the 'no dog waste' stencil at Perry Court and other areas.

**173. Benches**

A suggestion for a bench in the junction at Napleton Road and South Road. As part of the east to west walk there should be a bench near the gunpowder mill gates. Cllr Saunders happy to assist with working on the area for the bench near the Almshouses and discuss with KCC regarding funding. Cllr Gibson proposed, seconded by Cllr Cook and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to site a bench subject to permission.***

**174. Allotments**

Cllr Cook noted that there were some unsightly allotments at St Nicks and if there is a waiting list could these be utilised as soon as possible. He also asked about the expansion of the Perry Court allotments. Cllr C Martin spoke about future plans to fence the community orchard to enable bee hives to be placed.

Cllr C Martin suggested allotment inspections over two Saturdays.

The Clerk noted that there had been no interest in the vacant allotments at St Nicks, Cllr C Martin asked that the empty plots be strimmed to contaminating other plots. Also strim the external footpaths.

There is hope that there will be more takers for the Pumpkin competition. The Facilities Manager was asked to ensure there are posters at all allotment sites.

**175. Open Faversham**

Matthew Hatchwell noted that the deadline has now passed for submitting events, there is a day planned on 31<sup>st</sup> May for event relating to the environment. The venue will be Faversham Lakes, Andersons have agreed access to the hall on site and there are three talks planned, including a bat walk in the evening. There is also a tree walk.

**176. Items for Report**

Planters around the public conveniences  
Action Plan

The meeting closed at 20.37