

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

10th September 2025, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

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

In Attendance:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Stacey Woolf (Facilities Manager)

Public Questions

195. Apologies for Absence

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

196. Declarations of Interest

None.

197. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Saunders, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 9th July 2025.**

198. Facility Manager's Update

Allotments Report

Joint Allotment Best Plot Competition

Work is underway to establish a *Faversham Joint Allotment Best Plot Competition* with the support of Cllr C Martin. Judging will take place across all allotment sites, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places awarded at each site, followed by the selection of an overall winner.

- Prizes will be awarded in vouchers of £50 (1st), £30 (2nd), and £20 (3rd).
- The overall winner will receive the allotment competition cup engraved with their name.
- Winners will be announced at the *Faversham in Bloom* event on 21 October 2025.

Stonebridge Allotments

- No current issues on site.
- A meeting with the new Chair is scheduled for 2 September 2025.
- Hedge cutting will take place during the first or second week of September. Cuttings will be stored on site for use at the annual bonfire in late October.

- Current waiting list: 72 people.

Millfield Allotments

- Current waiting list: 49 people.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the use of pesticides on site, contrary to the Town Council's *pesticide-free* policy. The matter has been referred to the Chair of the Association, as the prohibition of pesticides is clearly stated in both the Management Agreement and Tenancy Agreement.
- Two poplar trees have been assessed for safety:
 - The tree at the bottom of the site has been identified as unsafe, with the lowest quotation for removal being £864. Cllr C Martin has been informed of the associated safety risks.
 - The poplar tree adjacent to the railway line may require future reduction. This could be problematic due to Network Rail's restrictions and may involve costs in the thousands of pounds.

It was agreed to accept the quotation for trees works at £864.

St Nicholas Allotments

- An issue has been reported concerning one of the new tenants from the adjacent new-build properties. The Housing Association has been notified, and a response is awaited.
- Current waiting list: 6 people.
- Difficulties have arisen in communication with the site's secretary, who has had problems accessing her emails. It has now been agreed with the Chair that waiting list information will be sent directly to her.
- There are currently vacant plots on the site, despite the waiting list.

Perry Court Allotments

- No issues currently reported; the site is working well.
- The site is fully occupied with a waiting list of 10 people.
- The allotments are reported to be in good condition.
- Walking trails are being maintained, with two cuts completed to date. A sit-on mower has been hired from *Go Mowers* at a cost of £150 per day for two days' use. Mulch has been placed around the orchard trees.

Mowing Schedule (Faversham, Kent – Fescue Lawn)

- *March–April*: Two cuts, mower set high (6–7 cm).
- *May–June*: Two cuts, height 5–6 cm.
- *July–August*: One cut, height 6–7 cm to protect against heat/drought.
- *September–October*: Two cuts; best time for lawn repairs/overseeding.
- *November*: One cut, mower set high.
- *December–February*: No mowing; remove leaves/debris to prevent disease.

Landscaping

- The landscaping for Perry Court requires formal sign-off. Concerns remain about dead trees that need replacement, as well as the presence of stone/flint that requires removal.
- Communication with the responsible party has proved challenging, with meetings missed or rescheduled and no tree plan yet provided.

199. Events

A series of Hedgehog activities had been scheduled for November including a talk on the evening of Thursday 13th November in The Guildhall. It was agreed to make the event ticketed.

200. Items for Report

2026/27 Budget