

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.