

Water Quality Working Group Minutes

Held in the Guildhall on Monday 24th March 2025 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs L Coniam, C Gibson, R Newman and Mr K Pugh

In attendance: Miss A Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. Acting Chair

In the absence of the Chair it was agreed that Cllr C Gibson would Chair the meeting

2. Apologies

Received from Cllrs R Crayford, C Martin, Ms L Tootell, Mr D Hadley and Mr M Collins

3. Membership

The DTC confirmed that the members of the Creek, Heritage & Buildings Committee and Environment Committee had been invited to be members of the WQWG. The following responded positively:

Cllr L Coniam
Cllr R Crayford
Cllr C Gibson
Cllr K Golding
Cllr P Cook
Cllr C Martin
Cllr R Newman

Membership would be reviewed at the start of the next Civic Year.

It was agreed that FAVWAT should be allowed to send alternative members as appropriate.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 18th December 2024

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December were proposed by Cllr C Gibson and seconded by Cllr L Coniam.

5. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference had been agreed at Environment Committee on 8th January 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr C Gibson, seconded by Cllr L Coniam and on being put to the meeting ***Recommend that the Zoological Society of London was added to the list of organisations to engage with.***

6. Actions from Environment Committee

ACTION: Draft Letters to Environment Agency and Natural England to be recirculated to members, comments on the letters to be submitted by Friday 28th March (AB)

7. Meetings

KP provided an update on the meeting held with Josh Hammond from the Environment Agency on 10th February 2025. This started with a generic presentation “Monitoring the sources and the impact of pollution in freshwater systems”.

Maps were used to describe Faversham sewer system, most of the system is combined sewers and separate foul pipes and runoff pipes (CSO pipes).

Current threats to water quality:

- 1) Impact of agricultural runoff
- 2) Impact of road runoff through surface popes
- 3) Impact of sewage from storm overflows
- 4) Degraded infrastructure
- 5) Sewer misconnections

Testing parameters:

- 1) Temperature
- 2) PH
- 3) Conductivity
- 4) Turbidity
- 5) Ammoniacal Nitrogen
- 6) Phosphate
- 7) Dissolved Oxygen

The EA uses Hanna Checkers for ammonia, nitrogen and phosphate, FAVWAT plan to use to the same system to standardise results with EA and other groups.

KP provided an update on the meeting held with James Latter and Sam Gardiner from Southern Water Clean Rivers and Seas Plan. There are government targets to be met by SW.

SW have identified Faversham Creek as a target area for their clean Rivers and Seas Plan because it's a high priority site due to being in a shellfish zone and also it is experiencing more than the 10 spills a year limit from CSO's.

Key Problem areas:

- 1: Court Street CSO
- 2: Abbey Road
- 3: Faversham Wast Water Treatment Plant
- 4: Boughton Pumping Station (Stockers Hill)

KP also reported that FAVWAT will be affiliated with Faversham Creek Trust. That the Town Council Newsletter had article had an excellent response with 5 more people coming forward.

8. Future Agenda Item

Members discussed the benefits of a definitive lists of protected and non-protected species being compiled for the creek. After further discussion it was considered that this could be completed town wide and should be referred to the Environment Committee.

It was noted that Network Rail continue to use pesticides and should be written to, again referred to the Environment Committee.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 7:00pm.

The meeting ended at 20.05