

Water Quality Working Group Minutes

Held in the Guildhall on Monday 10th June 2025 7.00pm

Present: Cllr C Gibson, M Colins, D Hadley, K Pugh and L Tootell

In attendance: Miss A Begent (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. Acting Chair

Cllr C Gibson chaired the meeting.

2. Apologies

Received from Cllrs L Coniam, P Cook, K Golding and Mr M Hatchwell

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest recorded.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th March

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March were received.

5. Correspondence

It was noted that no response had been received from Natural England. The meeting received the letter from the Environment Agency (19th May 2025). The EA stated that E. Coli levels are within acceptable parameters for effluent discharged from a wastewater treatment plant.

The WG group did not agree that the levels were acceptable and were also concerned that the level of E. Coli could indicate other pollution present.

Whilst the creek is not a bathing area steps could be taken to change its designation to Sensitive Zone.

EA stated that they do not regulate sewage discharges from houseboats in Faversham Creek, as this falls under the remit of Peel Ports.

ACTION: Letter to Peel Ports to be drafted and circulated (AB)

6. FAVWAT

FAVWAT and the Creek Trust are now affiliated.

Faversham Creek Trust and Southern Water will meet next in July.

In the process of changing environmental testing so will be compliant with EA testing, which is funded by the Creek Trust.

Three campaigns of action:

- 1) Designation of Sensitive Zone – Stricter Permits

- 2) Tertiary Treatment at Sewage Works
- 3) Move sewage outlet pipe further towards Swale

ACTION: Ask Mathew Hatchwell for contacts at Bangor and Canterbury University DH/KP

ACTION: Ask Southern Water when the tertiary treatment will be upgraded and why if they are screening for micro plastics at other locations, why not at Faversham works MC

7. Town Council

Future Town Council surveys should ask about the creek as a leisure facility when asking what people value in the town and what services/facilities people use.

ACTION: Town Council to display signs advising water users to check Southern Water Task Force App at entrance to Front Brents Jetty. AB

ACTION: Investigate why there is no announcement regarding the safety of oysters when there are signs saying they should not be consumed. CG

8. Dates of next meeting

The dates of the meetings for the forthcoming Civic Year were noted:

Mon 28/07/25

Mon 22/09/25

Mon 24/11/25

Tue 27/01/26

Mon 23/03/25

The meeting ended at 19.44