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All members of the Faversham Town Council Environment Committee

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Faversham Town Council Environment Committee to be held on **Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7.30pm** in The Guildhall, for the purpose of considering and resolving the business to be transacted as set out in this agenda. This meeting will be hybrid and members of the public may attend remotely.

Sarah Muteham PSLCC, Town Clerk

S. Muteham

4th June 2026

A maximum of 15 minutes will be allowed to receive public questions and comments on items on the agenda.

AGENDA

- 1. To elect the Vice-Chair**
- 2. Non-councillor members**
To consider applications from non-councillors.
- 3. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**
To receive and approve apologies for absence and any substitutions.
- 4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
Members who have an interest to declare on any items on the Agenda, must declare the existence and nature of it at the start of the meeting and act in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct (s27 Localism Act 2011).
- 5. Minutes of the previous meeting**
To note the minutes of Environment Committee meeting held on the 15th April 2026 and any matters arising.
- 6. Policies**
To review the committee's Terms of Reference ([Appendix A](#)).
- 7. Pesticide-Free Town**
To receive an update on the action plan and agree any further action.

8. Facility Manager's Update

To receive the Facility Manager's report ([Appendix B](#)).

9. Oare Gunpowder Works

To receive an update on the Oare Gunpowder Works project and agree any further action.

10. Allotments

To agree dates to judge the "Best Plot" cup and approve format of prizes.

11. Section 106

To consider and agree suggestions for future S106 requirements, to be submitted to the Town Council's Planning Committee.

12. Events

To note the update on events ([Appendix C](#))

13. Items for report

To receive reports and note future agenda items.

Appendix A

Environment Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This committee will be subject to the General Terms of Reference for Committees and Working Groups, together with the following:

1. To update and action the Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan on a regular basis.
2. Lead and support initiatives that encourage biodiversity, such as no mow May, wilding verges, bee and insect friendly initiatives, tree and wild seedball giveaways.
3. To oversee the work of the Facilities Manager at the allotment sites. To receive a regular report and agree any actions, particularly improving biodiversity.
4. To work towards achieving Pesticide Free Town Status and promote the use of alternative methods. Promote more widely our proposals for a Pesticide Free Town.
5. To identify possible partners, and areas, to create a community woodland.
6. To work alongside community groups to improve the natural and built environment and encourage others to participate.
7. To lead on the reduction of litter, graffiti, and dog waste.
8. Looking at all matters affecting street furniture, including benches, planters, and bus shelters.
9. Liaise with KCC, SBC, and other public and private bodies, as required, to lead and support initiatives that encourage the maintenance and planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers in public spaces, including green walls.
10. Engage the wider community through various activities, initiatives, and awareness events.
11. Lead FTC's plan to reduce its CO2 impact and work towards net zero.

Appendix B

FTC FACILITIES REPORT.

Allotments.

Stonebridge.

Stonebridge had a company in the allotment carrying out drainage work; Vortex was the contractor engaged to undertake the works. During their visit, they struck the right-hand pillar at the gate entrance. Joseph was on site at the time and is dealing with the matter.

We are keeping both the Chair and the plot holder informed of developments. We have checked the area, made it safe, and stacked the fallen bricks neatly into a pile.

Millfield.

Ongoing concerns have been raised at Millfield Allotments regarding the use of pesticides and weed killers. We have been trying to approach this matter positively and responsibly by supporting the pesticide-free action plan, which is also supported by Faversham Town Council.

Many plot holders are happy to support a no-pesticide approach, although some do not wish to be restricted in what they use. The issue first became noticeable when weed killer was repeatedly used in the car park area, which was clearly visible to everyone. At the time, I raised this with the Chair and asked if the individual involved could please stop using weed killer on the site.

I also pointed out that the allotment tenancy agreement states under Section XVII that "plot holders should not use pesticides on Millfield Allotments." In addition, the Millfield Allotment Association Constitution, Section 9, states that members are "to co-operate with a no pesticide rule on the allotment." This constitution was signed by the Chair at the time. Despite this, we still have some plot holders continuing to push against these rules. In February, the new Chair sent an email to all plot holders informing them about the unpermitted use of pesticides and weed killers on the site. We worked with the new Chair to promote alternatives, and signs were placed on all gates around the allotments, as recommended within Stage 2 of the Pesticide-Free Action Plan.

Unfortunately, these notices have since been ignored or abused, with some people adding references to other chemicals. We have also made clear that it is unlawful to use pesticides or spray weed killer on the land without the landowner's permission.

I hope the committee can now clearly set out the rules regarding what, if any, alternative sprays may be permitted on the land, or whether no sprays at all should be allowed. I would also ask the committee to consider introducing an immediate ban or enforcement action for anyone caught spraying chemicals on the allotment site.

Once agreed, I can then update and strengthen the tenancy agreement so that the rules are fully clear to all plot holders.

This is an email sent out to the allotment committees

Dear Committee

Please note that all Faversham Town Council allotment sites are pesticide- and herbicide-free.

Could all plot holders please ensure they comply with this requirement, as it forms part of the tenancy agreement.

Signs will shortly be installed across all Faversham Town Council allotment sites, confirming that these are chemical-free sites.

No plot holder has permission to use chemical pesticides or weedkillers on the site. The use of such substances requires the appropriate risk assessments and the permission of the landowner.

Essentially, the use of pesticides or spray weedkillers on the allotment sites is not permitted. Also, the use of slug pellets: we are finding that some people still have old stock of slug pellets in sheds, which are now banned. Please check and only use hedgehog-friendly ones, please.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to maintain safe, environmentally friendly allotment spaces for everyone.

Kind regards

St Nicolas.

All good on site, no issues have been reported.

North Preston.

All good on site, no issues have been reported.

Perry Court.

We have received reports from a plot holder that, over the bank holiday weekend, a quad bike was seen on the land at Perry Court. Warning signs will now be placed around the area.

I have logged the incident and reported it to the police.

CPC are planning to water all the trees that have been replaced, all 33. This is a great help as they have a bowser to do this.

In – Bloom.

We had a meeting on the 23rd of April in the Guildhall; it was good to catch up with everyone.

We listed all the areas that the volunteers work on, so we can appreciate licenses for these areas with KCC.

Invited the chairs from the allotments and the tree warden to the group.

I will be helping Ted Willcox chair the next in – Bloom meeting on the 28th of May.

Bench Report.

The Facilities Team have been working on the benches along the West Brook stream, giving them a fresh new look and tidying up the surrounding area. We have also repaired and painted the rails along the stream and cleared the walkway. Also, the bench in the marketplace behind the guildhall has been worked on, sanded down and varnished.

Town planters.

New plants have been installed at the train station planter, and weekly checks are continuing on the other town planters. We are also hoping to place an advert in the newsletter asking whether residents would be interested in adopting a planter or flower bed. We would apply to KCC for any necessary licences required.

Regarding the three-tier planters around the town, I have been informed that they are due to be delivered on the evening of 30 May. We have also added two more locations: one outside the doctors' surgery in Bank Street and another opposite Wetherspoons. In addition, there will be four window boxes placed on the rails at Ables Archer and 13 around the toilets in the central car park. We are currently waiting for further confirmation.

Other.

Cookstich Stream: At the last meeting, it was asked by the council if there are specific times the siltex can be added, i.e., March and November.

Reply was for the best results, apply anytime between October and April.

I wouldn't advise applying calcium carbonate when water temperatures exceed 15°C. Given

the recent warm weather, I think it's best to schedule this application for October, once water temperatures decline and daylight hours shorten.

Please note that many of our dates for Autumn/Winter work are already getting booked up. Currently, we have the following available:

Friday 16th October

Friday 23rd October

If this is the case, then I will need to inform the school and residents of what needs to be done and when this is happening. Sorry for this being so long-winded.

Abbey place footpath: the Facilities Team had swept and cleared the pathway of leaves. This had been reported to SBC.

Stonebridge Pond: the Facilities Team had been down to the feeding area, fixing the fence to the allotment. It was reported that the fence had been vandalised.

Still, no signs have gone up about no camping and fishing.

The Rec: Joseph has been asking for funds for his volunteers, who need Gloves and other equipment. He has provided a list of plants needed for the Rec. He has had no luck with SBC. Could we help out?

Stacey Woolf
Facilities Manager
April / May 2026

Appendix C

Environment Events Update for June 2026

- Sunflower Competition

The Sunflower Competition is due to run until 31st July. I am posting on social media and trying to encourage participants to post photos of their progress (with little success so far).

- Bees

World Bee Day — 20 May

Simon Springate, Kent's Plan Bee Officer, delivered a talk on local bee species, and what we can do to help bees thrive, at Faversham Assembly Rooms on 20th May. Approximately 50 people booked through Eventbrite and the same number turned out on the day (a mixture of some who had booked and some who had not – but were allowed in). Feedback from the talk was excellent.

Bees' Needs Week — mid-July

I am working with Simon again on an exhibition at the Town Hall on bees and what local residents can do to encourage bees into their gardens. There will be resources that visitors can take away.

- Hedgehogs

Hedgehog Awareness Week – 4-10 May

During Hedgehog Awareness Week I posted about different issues faced by Hedgehogs. One of our work experience students from Westlands School designed some eye-catching graphics, which really boosted our efforts.

- Bats

Our volunteers are still undergoing practical walk training. Liz Vinson is going to lead a second mock bat walk this month and we hope to be able to set some dates for bat walks following this. It is important that the volunteers feel confident answering questions and dealing with the risk assessment process before we let them loose.