

Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7:30pm

The Guildhall

Cllr Coniam (Chair)	Present	Cllr Rowlands	Present
Cllr Perkin	Present	Cllr Saunders	Present
Cllr Cook	Absent		
Cllr B Martin	Apology	Martin Collins	Present
Cllr Golding	Apology	Matthew Hatchwell	Apology
Cllr Crayford	Apology		

In attendance:

Sarah Muteham (Town Clerk)

Stacey Woolf (Facilities Manager)

Public Questions:

Lesley Seager queried whether the Committee could recommend any weedkillers that would be accepted under its no-pesticides policy on allotments.

The Facilities Manager advised of issues with some ploholders who continued to use pesticides despite being advised not to.

Cllr Coniam advised it was her view if ploholders had signed a Tenancy Agreement stating no use of herbicides and pesticides and then did so, they should be removed from their plot. Cllr Perkin felt the Tenancy Agreements needed tightening to reflect the Town Council's no pesticides policy.

Maria Newman summarised the position at St Nicholas Allotments. The Management Agreement between the Town Council and the Committee was silent on the issue of chemicals and pesticides. However, the Tenancy Agreements for St Nicholas did state not to use chemicals, slug pellets, chemical weedkillers. Each site would have a different Tenancy Agreement. St Nicholas had wanted to change their Tenancy Agreements about an unrelated issue and been advised by the National Allotment Society that in order to change the Agreements, one year's notice was required to be given to the tenants.

249. Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to elect Cllr Perkin as Vice Chair.**

250. Non-Councillor Members

The Town Clerk advised applications for co-option had been received from Matthew Hatchwell and Martin Collins.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to co-opt Matthew Hatchwell and Martin Collins to the Committee for a further term.**

251. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the apologies with reasons from Cllr B Martin, Cllr Crayford, and Cllr Golding.***

252. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

253. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting dated 15th April 2026.***

254. Policies

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to add the following points to the Environment Committee Terms of Reference:***

- 12. To counter misinformation on climate change and biodiversity loss.***
- 13. To work with the community to promote and improve resilience on climate change.***

255. Pesticide-Free Town

It was agreed that the Facilities Manager would seek advice from the National Allotment Society on the implications of changing Tenancy Agreements and look to develop a standardised Tenancy Agreement across all sites.

It was agreed that Cllr Coniam would write to the relevant KCC Cabinet Member to request a meeting to discuss the use of chemicals on Faversham streets.

Cllr Perkin felt it would be useful contacting Swale Borough Council to see if their own adoption on non-pesticide use had been successful. It would also be useful to update the leaflet promoting non-pesticide use. Communication with the Duchy of Cornwall on the Town Council's aims would also be useful.

It was agreed to keep this item as a standing agenda item.

Action: Facilities Manager to seek advice from NAS on amending Tenancy Agreements and develop a standardised Tenancy Agreement.

Action: Cllr Coniam to write to KCC to request a meeting to discuss chemical use.

Action: Cllr Perkin to update the leaflet on non-pesticide use.

256. Facilities Manager's Update

The Facilities Manager's Report was received and noted.

The issue of illegal fishing at Stonebridge Pond was discussed. Following no response from Swale Borough Council, it was agreed to order appropriate signage.

Cllr Perkin expressed her thanks to the Facilities Team for the co-ordination of the volunteers at the Recreation Ground.

Action: The Facilities Manager to order and install appropriate signage at Stonebridge Pond.

257. Oare Gunpowder Works

The Town Clerk provided an update and advised she would be requesting the remaining grant money that could be used for the project. She would chase the solicitors regarding the progress on contracts.

Action: Town Clerk to chase Solicitors for progress on contracts.

258. Allotments

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to run the Allotment Competition and Pumpkin Growing Competition in 2026, with the Facilities Manager and the Chair to judge. The prize money would be £100 for each site (total £500) with £50 for first prize, £30 for second prize, and £20 for third prize and the awards ceremony to be held at the Guildhall (if available).***

Decision: The Allotment and Pumpkin Competitions to be repeated in 2026.

Action: Facilities Manager and Chair to judge the Allotment Competition.

259. Section 106

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

260. Events

The report on Environmental Events was received and noted.

It was agreed to look at showing the People's Emergency Briefing film, in areas of Faversham outside of the Town Centre, including West and East of the town, and school sixth forms.

Action: To look into showing the People's Emergency Briefing film.

261. Items for Report

- Allotment Tenancy and Management Agreements
- Pesticide Free Town to become a standing agenda item
- Meeting with KCC on the use of pesticides
- Section 106 List
- Siltex

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.