MINUTES OF THE FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

11th November 2026 at 7:30pm at The Town Hall

Present: Cllr Coniam (Chair), Cllr Cook, Cllr Crayford, Cllr B Martin, Cllr Perkin, Cllr Rowlands, Martin Collins, Matthew Hatchwell

Apologies: Cllr Golding

In attendance: Adrienne Begent (Interim Town Clerk)

Prior to the start of the meeting Rory Harding and Brad Trott gave a presentation on Faversham Community Nursery "Faversham Forest", which is run in conjunction with Edible Culture.

Public Questions:

Chris Oswald-Jones referred to the Graffiti discussion paper included with the meeting papers. He liked the proactive approach the paper took. He advised that he had been informed there was an existing Graffiti policy however he had not found any mention of it in Policy and Resources Committee minutes or on the FTC website. There had been a draft Policy from November 2023 which had not progressed through to ratification. Cllr Perkin advised that a Graffiti Action Plan had been ratified through the Committee and to the Full Town Council in December 2023, however the Graffiti Policy had some discussion about how to deal with graffiti on private residences and the cost and safety implications on the Facilities Team. Following a point made by Cllr Rowlands, Chris Oswald-Jones clarified that the point he was making was information provided had been erroneous.

Cllr Crayford felt the Committee view was that there was a policy. Continuing, he felt there was not a reduction in graffiti in Faversham. He felt it attracted further anti-social behaviour. The purpose of the paper was to take a more pro-active approach and to look at how things could be improved.

Liz Morris and Sophie Pearson referred to their work in local primary schools encouraging pupils to create art on how they would like the world to look like. They advised they would like to feature this in the next Town Council newsletter, and the Interim Town Clerk advised she would email them. The Chair agreed to write an article.

Councillors had a viewing of letters and artwork from pupils at Ethelbert Road Primary School. It was advised that further artwork would be collected from pupils at St Mary of Charity Primary School in due course.

A member of the public referred to a leaflet distributed by Helen Whately MP regarding housebuilding in the area and asked whether the Town Council felt that Faversham should retain its more rural nature or become more built up. Cllr Perkin referred to SBC going out to consultation on the Local Plan which included strategic sites. Cllr Perkin referred to the shortage of affordable and local authority housing. The Local Plan and the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan were designed to encourage developers to provide more affordable housing. The Government had increased housing allocation in

the area at the same time had centralised major planning decisions with the Secretary of State. Cllr Cook referred to the issues of housing allocations across Swale and the pressure from Sittingbourne and Sheppey to look at Faversham, despite the shortage of infrastructure. Cllr Crayford referred to the issue as a complex matter and the shortage of local authority and affordable housing. Cllr Crayford agreed with Cllr Perkin in that the Neighbourhood Plan was the Town Council's position on housing. Cllr B Martin referred to the homelessness issues faced in the town.

298. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept an apology with reason from Cllr Golding*.**

299. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Crayford – DNPI – Minute Item 301

300. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 21st October 2026 subject to Martin Collins being recorded as present and not as an apology, and Matthew Hatchwell recorded as an apology and not present*.**

301. People's Emergency Briefing Film

It was proposed by Cllr Coniam, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak on this agenda item*.**

Cllr Coniam reported that she had signed up as a Councillor in order to be able to host screenings. The next stage would be to find venues. It was established that St Mary of Charity, the Hot Tin, St Mary Magdelene Church at Davington had hosted screenings. Cllr Coniam advised that Macknade had expressed interest in hosting a screening and requested possible venues and contacts from members of the Committee. Cllr Crayford reported that Labour was hosting a screening on 16th December and suggested hosting at venues outside of the town centre.

Liz Morris and Sophie Pearson advised they would like to display the children's artwork and queried whether there were display boards available that could be loaned. Matthew Hatchwell advised of possible redundant display boards of the Faversham Society that were used at Open Faversham. He would provide contact details.

Liz Morris and Sophie Pearson discussed their hopes to apply for a Lottery Grant that could be used towards co-ordinating the work of local environmental community groups.

It was agreed to try and locate free venues, including schools, before looking at paid venues.

ACTION: Members to email the Chair with venue suggestions by Friday 13th November.

ACTION: The Chair to contact suggested venues.

302. Facilities Team Report

The Facilities Team Report was received and noted.

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Coniam, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to ask the RFO to set up an account to enable rents to be collected at Perry Court allotments to allow for future investment.***

Cllr Cook requested an update on the numbers on waiting lists for each allotment for the next meeting.

303. Graffiti

Cllr Crayford discussed his paper – A More Proactive Approach to Graffiti. The paper proposed a low cost, councillor led effort to tackle graffiti by identifying hotspots in each ward and asking the organisations responsible for affected buildings or infrastructure to clean them. It pointed to Tesco removing graffiti after a direct request as an example of how this can work without council funding. When individual requests go unanswered or one organisation is responsible for several sites, the Town Council could coordinate a collective approach, while avoiding a new inspection service or significant extra work for officers.

Cllr B Martin discussed the possibility of referring matters to the Eastern Councillor and Residents Forum to keep records of issues, in a similar way to water leak issues are handled.

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to refer this, and the Graffiti Policy, to the Policy and Resources Committee for adoption and to add the following to the Action Plan:***

Secure early removal from property owners

Identify the property owners and ask them to arrange removal. Councillors to make initial contact and share recurring or unresolved cases for co-ordinated follow-up by the Council.

Stakeholders include Ward Councillors, FTC, businesses, housing associations, utilities, rail companies, and other property owners.

304. Pesticide Free Town

The Pesticide Free Faversham leaflet, drafted by Cllr Perkin, was received.

Cllr Perkin advised some minor amendments had been made including some suggested by Cllr Crayford.

It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the Pesticide Free Faversham leaflet.***

Thanks were recorded to Cllr Perkin for the work she had put into developing the leaflet.

305. Paint Disposal and Recycling

Cllr Perkin reported on research carried out including an initiative called "Community Repaint". The majority of councils participating in the scheme were unitaries or London Boroughs. Cllr Perkin would do some further work on this and bring a full proposal to a future meeting.

306. FTC Land at Perry Court

Cllr Coniam reported that a meeting she had arranged with residents had had to be postponed at their request to allow for more attendance.

Cllr B Martin referred to email correspondence regarding the parking of the community bus, and that it had not been agreed the bus would be moved by the Summer, rather the possibility of moving it would be looked into. Legal action had been threatened if it was not moved, for planning and covenant breaches.

It was proposed by Cllr Crayford, seconded by Cllr B Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to contact Tassells and request a copy of the TP1 document.***

307. Items for Report

- Paint Disposal and Recycling
- People's Emergency Briefing Film
- Green School Awards
- Antisocial Behaviour/use of catapults against wildlife at Stonebridge Pond

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.