MINUTES OF THE FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

21st October 2026 at 7:30pm at The Town Hall

Present: Cllr Perkin (Acting Chair), Cllr Cook, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Rowlands, Matthew Hatchwell

Apologies: Cllr Coniam, Cllr Crayford, Cllr Golding, Cllr B Martin, Matthew Hatchwell

In attendance: Rob Gibbs (Office Manager), Joseph Hannah (Town Ranger)

Public Questions:

Naomi Blunt raised the issue of trees on the A2 and around Love Lane which were perishing. She had reported this to KCC and enquired whether smaller younger saplings, that were easier to maintain, could be planted. There was no KCC budget for this. Trees around Davington were also flagged and Cllr Coniam was following up on these issues. Naomi Blunt also felt trees should be planted along Bysing Wood Road as she felt more people would walk along the road to Sainsburys rather than using their cars. Cllr Perkin felt more trees would also help with 20mph compliance and felt there was some co-ordination that could be done with the Active Travel Committee.

Cllr Cook referred to developer's obligations concerning new trees and that if they perished within 5 years, developers were required to replace them. Swale BC Planning Enforcement could be asked to intervene in such circumstances.

Victoria Dickenson raised an issue of cars parking on the roots of the tree behind the Guildhall. Cllr Perkin referred to the changes in parking restrictions due to be implemented in Market Place and Court Street. Issues with local trees being victims of Ash Dieback disease were discussed and tree removal over the years in the town centre.

286. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies with reasons were accepted from Cllrs Coniam, Crayford, Golding and B Martin, and Matthew Hatchwell.

287. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Gibson DNPI Minute Item 290 as an allotment holder

288. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Environment Committee dated 9th September 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting.***

289. People's Emergency Briefing

Cllr Perkin reported that Cllr Coniam had signed up to enable the Town Council to hold screenings.

Liz Morris and Sophie Pearson reported on screening held at Faversham Assembly Rooms which had been well attended. The possibility of holding

screenings at St Mary of Charity Church and West Faversham Community Centre were discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to where possible hold a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing in each Ward of Faversham.***

290. Facilities Team Report

The Town Ranger summarised the Facilities Team Report included with the meeting papers.

Issues raised included the need to clean the paving slabs at the War Memorial and weeds at Perry Court Allotments car park. Cllr Cook suggested trying salt water initially, as a natural method of weed killing. Cllr Gibson advised there might a Royal British Legion volunteer that could help with cleaning of the War Memorial. Victoria Dickenson advised she was aware of a potential volunteer. She had also been deadheading the roses and advised a holly tree required attention. It was agreed that the Town Ranger would liaise with Victoria Dickenson about this.

Regarding the mowing schedule at Perry Court, it was agreed that the Town Ranger would liaise with Cllr Coniam to check progress on consultation with residents.

291. Water Bowser

The quote for the Water Bowser was received and discussed

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED IN PRINCIPLE that the Town Ranger provide a quote for the Bowser to the specification required up to a maximum of £3000 for the next Town Council meeting.***

292. Graffiti

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Rowlands, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to defer this item until the following meeting when Cllr Crayford would be available to discuss.***

293. Pesticide Free Town

Cllr Perkin advised she would circulate a draft leaflet following the meeting for comments or amends. She hoped to feature an article in the next newsletter. It was agreed to include this item on the next meeting agenda.

294. Swift Boxes

It was confirmed that advice from the Conservation Officer had been received regarding installing Swift boxes on the Guildhall. It was agreed that the Town Ranger would check to see if any of the boxes donated by Swale Friends of the Earth were in storage before purchasing additional boxes.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Gibson, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to purchase and install two Swift boxes and Caller on the Guildhall.***

295. Paint Disposal and Recycling

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Cook, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to research possible solutions from other Councils and to present a paper at the next meeting.***

296. Trees

Cllr Cook felt it would be beneficial to seek case studies of where the Town Council had previously given out trees and the results of growth.

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Perkin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Rowlands would work with the Town Ranger to look at organising the Tree Giveaway at St Mary of Charity Church with the Tree Wardens providing support regarding instructions for care of the trees.***

297. Items for Report

- People's Emergency Briefing Film
- Pesticide Free Town
- FTC Land at Perry Court
- Graffiti Paper
- Paint Disposal and Recycling

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.