

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Founded in December 1894

Meeting of the Amenities, Open Spaces and Environment Committee Wednesday 03rd March 2021 Remotely, starting At 1.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Gathern, P Barker and Wiffen
Also Present: Aniko Szocs (Clerk)

The meeting started at 1.00pm.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Alexander.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gathern (Item 8)

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 13th January 2021 were duly approved.

Proposed: Cllr Wiffen	Seconded: Cllr P Barker	In Favour: all
Vote against: 0	Vote Abstain: 0	Motion carried

4. Chair's Report

Members received an update from the chair on recent events/conferences attended.
Kent Plan Bee summit: various topics were covered, including light pollution, improving bus shelters for bees, biodegradable hedge guard, soil health, pesticide usage and wild lawns.

Delivering Green Agenda: the conference focused on carbon footprint and what local councils can do to help cutting it back.

Meeting with Kent Wildlife Trust: a productive meeting with KWT discussion about opportunities, and options the parish council can take to improve biodiversity in the parish.

5. Amenities, Open Spaces and Environment Committee

The committee reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference and agreed to recommend to the full council to adopt it with a minor change to the membership section, deleting – “one whom shall be the Chair of the parish council”.

6. Kent Plan Bee

A long discussion took place about the Kent Plan Bee summit, the committee agreed on the following action points:

- Investigate going pesticides free, the clerk to contact Faversham and Fulham council to find out how they achieved this.
- Contacting Ashford Borough council to find out where, when and how often they apply pesticides, to gain a better understanding and to see if they have any plans to phase the chemical out.
- Identify areas where lights could be switched off, to help insects. Residents in those areas will be consulted.
- Working out the council's carbon footprint and to draw up a 5 year plan for net zero. The plan would have to be reviewed annually. The committee recommendation is that the council should consider a professional body to help drawing up a plan.
- To make bus shelters and bins pollinator friendly by planting pollinator friendly plants
- Next parish newsletter to include tree related facts on each page in a leaf form, then ask residents to either draw or take a photo of a tree highlighting the fact they have learned from the magazine and display some photos in the parish noticeboards.

7. Walkabout

The proposed date for the walkabout is Wednesday, 14th April at 10.00 am.

8. Allotments

The allotment currently has a long waiting list.

9. Items for information or Agenda for next meeting

- To review actions raised at the previous meeting.

10. Date and venue of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, 26th May 2021 starting at 1.00 pm held remotely.

The meeting closed at 14.15 pm