



**Meeting of the Environment Committee
Tuesday, 25th June 2024 at Singleton Village Hall, Parish Office
starting at 4.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs Peter Barker, Steve Herring, Barry Mercer and Malcolm Wiffen
Also Present: Aniko Szocs (Clerk), Cllr Sally Gathern (ABC) and 1 MOP

The meeting started at 16:30 pm.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Dave Gathern and Ian McClintock

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 28th May 2024 were duly approved.

Proposed: Cllr Wiffen	Seconded: Cllr Herring	In Favour: 4
Vote against: 0	Vote Abstain: 0	Motion carried

4. Tree Report

The committee reviewed the report and considered the follow up actions. It was suggested that the Parish Steward removes the ivy where it has been noted as an issue. There is nothing critical highlighted in the report but hope to action most issues highlighted within three months. The report has been shared with the Playing Fields Association. The committee agreed to accept the report.

Proposed: Cllr P Barker	Seconded: Cllr Wiffen	In Favour: 4
Vote against: 0	Vote Abstain: 0	Motion carried

5. Allotments

A plot inspection has been carried out, a couple of plots have been identified as needing more work, but overall, all other plots seemed to be in a good order. The committee will notify the plot holders of the inspection results. It has been noted that the beehive has been moved and it is near to one of the plots at the bottom of the allotment, a plot holder has been stung three times so far. The Clerk to contact the committee to find out when the beehive has been moved and if they are aware that the

plot holder has been stung three times. The container has been painted and with the new roof and water collection system it has made a big difference. The committee commented on the excellent job Dan and the committee is doing. The committee discussed the possibility of the Parish Steward cutting the grass in the communal areas to help the allotment holders with the ongoing maintenance.

6. Heron Walk Community Garden

The area is almost ready for planting. The Clerk and Cllr Mercer to create two options for the residents to pick from, one possibly offering wildflowers and the other herbs. The options then will be presented to the residents and a planting day arranged.

7. Tree Trail

The Parish Steward has made a start on the tree trail and hopes to complete it by the end of the June or early July the latest. It has been requested the tree locations are logged using the What3Words app. It has also been recommended to hold an opening event once the project is complete, and possible contact the Kent Plan Tree project to help facilitate the event.

8. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow

Friends of Singleton Lake held a meet and greet event at the lake. The purpose of the event was to educate visitors about feeding the ducks with healthy food, the group had a positive response from the public. A litter pick is being organised for the 28th of July and there might be a bat walk event, but it is not confirmed yet. The Parish Council agreed to contribute towards the boardwalk and awaiting an update from Aspire. The clerk to follow this up.

9. Ashford Community Woodland

The clerk reported that the Parish Steward has cut the vegetation back around the fruit trees and cleared the path leading up to the orchard.

10. Bee Project

A discussion of the areas took place and agreed that areas already selected for the project will be prepared for planting in the autumn.

11. Gardening Competition

The committee requested to include the Garden competition in the next Parish Council newsletter, on the front page, along with the agreed categories. It will allow time for residents to start plan and think about their entries. The committee agreed to formalise the rules and guidelines from September.

12. Items for information or agenda for next meeting

- Allotment
- Heron Walk Community Garden Project
- Singleton Lake and Buxford Meadow
- Tree Trail
- Bee project- Singleton West
- Gardening Competition- Best Front Garden
- Tree Report

13. Date and venue of next meeting.

The date of the next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, 31st July 2024 starting at 4.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 17.40 pm.