



**Meeting of the Environment Committee  
Wednesday, 05 February 2025 at Singleton Village Hall, Parish Office  
starting at 16:30**

**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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Dave Gathern

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were duly approved.

<b>Proposed: Cllr Wiffen</b>	<b>Seconded: Cllr Mercer</b>	<b>In Favour: 4</b>
<b>Vote against: 0</b>	<b>Vote Abstain: 0</b>	<b>Motion carried</b>

**4. Allotments**

The taps are now installed providing access to water for plot holders in the lower section of the allotments. The committee is currently in the process of collecting the annual fee.

**5. Heron Walk Community Garden**

This area has now been sown with wildflower seeds.

**6. Tree Trail**

The tree trail is now complete, except for the posts in the churchyard. A guide is available online and at Singleton Environment Centre. It has been noted that future guides should include the Parish Council's contact details and website address.

**7. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow**

Members of Friends of Singleton Lake and Cllr Mercer have planted bulbs around Singleton Lake, bringing a welcome touch of colour for the coming seasons. The Kentish Stour Partnership has a new member responsible for the Stour and all its tributaries, with a potential opportunity to access a canoe to clear litter from hard-to-

reach areas. It has been agreed that the Clerk will contact Aspire to revisit several projects, including painting benches and vegetation removal. The committee also noted concerns from some residents regarding the maintenance of the lake and its surroundings.

#### **8. Ashford Community Woodland**

Three new fruit trees have been added to the existing orchard, and the planting event was well attended. As a follow-up, the Ashford Community Woodland group plans to spread mulch around the trees to improve soil nutrition. The group will also be submitting a grant application to help cover the costs.

#### **9. Bee Project**

Daffodils, bluebells and sneak head fritillaria have been planted around the parish, with focus on Singleton West ward.

#### **10. Gardening Competition**

Information about the competition is available on the parish council website, it is also advertised in the newsletter and a series of social media posts are scheduled.

#### **11. Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation**

The Environment Committee applaud the intentions of the Kent and Medway LNRS but feel that without significant financial support and rigorous enforcement it will remain a paper exercise. The expectation is it is timed, costed, reported upon and enforced.

<b>Proposed: Cllr Wiffen</b>	<b>Seconded: Cllr Herring</b>	<b>In Favour: 4</b>
<b>Vote against: 0</b>	<b>Vote Abstain: 0</b>	<b>Motion carried</b>

#### **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

#### **13. Date and venue of next meeting.**

The date of the next scheduled meeting is 09<sup>th</sup> April 2025 starting at 16:30.

The meeting closed at 17:55