



Meeting of the Environment Committee

Wednesday, 16th April 2025 at Singleton Village Hall, Parish Office

starting at 16:30

Present: Cllrs Peter Barker, Barry Mercer, and Malcolm Wiffen

Also Present: Aniko Szocs (Clerk), Cllr Sally Gathern (ABC) and 1 MOP

The meeting started at 16:40

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Dave Gathern and Steve Herring

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 5th February 2025 were duly approved.

Proposed: Cllr Wiffen	Seconded: Cllr Mercer	In Favour: 3
Vote against: 0	Vote Abstain: 0	Motion carried

4. Allotments

The Barrow and Spade Brigade recently held their Annual General Meeting, which was attended by Cllrs P. Barker and Wiffen. Both councillors praised the committee for the excellent work they are doing.

Minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

Cllr P. Barker informed allotment holders that laying woodchip on the Public Right of Way could potentially result in liability issues. An inspection is scheduled for May, and Cllr Barker will coordinate with the committee to arrange a suitable date.

It was also noted that some sheds on site appear to exceed the recommended size of 6x4. This will need to be reviewed to ensure all sheds comply with the standard size.

5. Heron Walk Community Garden

The raised bed has been sown with wildflower seeds, which are yet to come through. In addition, bulbs have been planted in other areas of the parish. If the results are not as expected this year, we will look to try again next year.

6. Tree Trail

The tree trail has received positive feedback. The committee is now considering the creation of a Route B to expand the trail. It was also agreed to arrange a walkabout, as this will help identify any issues first-hand.

7. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow

Members of the Friends of Singleton Lake, along with Cllr Mercer, have planted bulbs around the lake. Unfortunately, there are no signs of flowering yet, and it has been noted that the bulbs appeared dry, which may have affected their growth.

The Kentish Stour Partnership Group has been carrying out coppicing work and clearing fallen trees in the area.

Cllr S. Gathern mentioned that an ABC Officer has expressed interest in supporting the group with a potential Bat Walk event—this will be followed up. The Clerk will also contact an officer at ABC to explore opportunities for creating natural habitats around the lake.

8. Ashford Community Woodland

A task day is planned for the first weekend of May, during which mulch will be spread around the recently planted trees.

9. Bee Project

This is an ongoing project. Seeds and bulbs have already been planted, and based on their success, additional areas will be sown and planted in the future.

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.

Committee members have requested that leaflets be printed to distribute to residents who may be interested.

11. 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
- Colemans Kitchen

12. Date and venue of next meeting.

The date of the next scheduled meeting is **18th of June 2025** starting at 16:00 and a walkaround on the **5th of June 2025** starting at 9.30 am from Singleton Environment Centre.

The meeting closed at 17:40