



Meeting of the Environment Committee

Wednesday, 26th November 2025 at Buxford Pavilion starting at 16:00

Present: Cllrs Peter Barker, Dave Gathern, Steve Herring, and Malcolm Wiffen

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

The meeting started at 16:00

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Barry Mercer

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2025 were duly approved.

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

4. Allotments

Cllrs Wiffen and P Barker will be carrying out a plot inspection on the 29th of November.

5. Heron Walk Community Garden

The raised bed has been covered with weed suppressant and is scheduled to be planted in early spring. With support from the Community Engagement Officer, there is potential for this initiative to become a community project, and, consistent with the original vision, it will be led by local residents.

6. Tree Trail

The committee considered the development of the next Tree Trail and proposed that it should feature British wildlife alongside the trees. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Aspire to enquire whether someone with relevant expertise could join a walkaround to assist in selecting and identifying suitable trees for inclusion in the trail. This walk is to be scheduled for early spring.

7. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow

The Buxford pond remains partially inaccessible. The committee asked for the management plan for the area and agreed that maintenance should be improved.

8. Ashford Community Woodland

The Ashford Community Woodland held its AGM unfortunately no Parish Council representative could attend. The committee was informed that a grant application has been received and will be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

9. Gardening Competition

The gardening competition is highlighted on the newsletter's front page, and the website now shows the 2026 dates. The committee also discussed a possible Christmas Light competition for 2026.

10. Roundabout on A28

Cllr Wiffen met with KCC to discuss decorating the roundabout, and ABC confirmed that a planning application is required for installing silhouette planes.

11. Kent Downs Management Survey

The committee decided no response is needed and will circulate this to councillors for individual replies if desired.

12. Items for information or agenda for next meeting

- Allotment
- Heron Walk Community Garden Project
- Singleton Lake and Buxford Meadow
- Tree Trail
- Roundabout on A28 (To discuss decoration)

13. Date and venue of next meeting.

The date of the next scheduled meeting is **14th January 2026** starting at 16:00

The meeting closed at 17:06