



## Meeting of the Environment Committee Wednesday, 04<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Buxford Hall, Buxford Pavilion starting at 16:00

**Present:** Cllrs Peter Barker, Steve Herring, Barry Mercer, and Malcolm Wiffen

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

The meeting started at 16:00

### 1. Apologies for Absence

The committee acknowledged and accepted Cllr Gathern's apology.

|                               |                                |                       |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Proposed: Cllr Herring</b> | <b>Seconded: Cllr P Barker</b> | <b>In Favour: 4</b>   |
| <b>Vote against: 0</b>        | <b>Vote Abstain: 0</b>         | <b>Motion carried</b> |

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 committee received an update on the allotments. There is potential to access S106 funding towards a compost toilet on site; this will be confirmed by 13<sup>th</sup> March. The chair of the allotment has also approached borough and county councillors regarding funding towards this project.

It was noted that their bank account had been closed and some plot holders could not pay their fees; this has now been rectified.

The AGM is on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Cricket Club.

### 5. Heron Walk Community Garden

There is nothing further to report. The raised bed remains under cover, ready for planting. This is also an excellent opportunity for the apprentice to become involved.

## **6. Tree Trail**

The committee held a brief discussion regarding possible route extensions or the creation of new routes. Singleton Lake was considered as a potential option. However, it is possible that this route may not be accessible for wheelchair users, so the committee is exploring alternative routes that could accommodate wheelchairs.

## **7. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow**

The committee discussed the renewal of the Public Place Protection Order. While all were in favour, it was noted that, without enforcement, the scheme is ineffective. A number of residents have been distributing leaflets to houses nearby to encourage engagement with the proposal. There is a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at International House to discuss issues around the lake, and both ABC and Kent Police will be present.

A litter pick had been organised by the Parish Council, during which a staggering amount of rubbish was collected, including large items such as a shopping trolley, microwave, and tents.

The Friends of Singleton Lake members are actively reporting issues, which has generated responses from Kent Police, who have attended the site after several callouts.

## **8. Ashford Community Woodland**

One of the signs has been vandalised and was removed by the parish steward, as it was causing a trip hazard. This has been reported to the relevant parties. It was noted that this route is part of the Public Rights of Way. It was suggested that additional signage, similar to those in Victoria Park, which highlight a destination's distance from that specific location, could be installed in various places within the parish.

## **9. Items for information or agenda for next meeting**

- Allotment
- Heron Walk Community Garden Project
- Singleton Lake and Buxford Meadow
- Tree Trail
- Ashford Community Woodland
- Signs
- Air quality monitor

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

The date of the next scheduled meeting is **8<sup>th</sup> April 2026** starting at 16:00 at Buxford Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 17:00