



Meeting of the Environment Committee

Thursday, 16th July 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)

The meeting started at 15:58

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and approved from Cllr Dave Gathern.

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

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 04th June 2026 were duly approved.

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

4. Allotments

The Committee received an update on allotment activity. Councillors had carried out plot inspections, and plot holders have been emailed with the outcome. Those requiring further work on their plots have been advised. The compost toilet is expected to be constructed within the next few weeks.

5. Heron Walk Community Garden

The Committee noted that the area has been prepared and rotivated. A date will be arranged for the construction of a central rockery, with the outer area retained for community planting. The design will also include accessible provision for wheelchair users.

6. Tree Trail

The boards for the additional route have been ordered and ready to be installed.

7. Singleton Lake & Buxford Meadow

The Committee noted that a Singleton Lake Community Day is being organised by the CEO to help build positive relationships with stakeholders. Reports of swimming in the lake were discussed, and it was noted that this is dangerous due to the strong undercurrent and previous fatalities. The Committee agreed that signage should be made clearer and less wordy. Cllr Wiffen, the Clerk and the CEO had met with officers from ABC to discuss issues relating to the lake. It was noted that the existing lifeline will be replaced with a life ring due to ongoing vandalism and cost of replacement.

8. Ashford Community Woodland

The Committee noted that the stewards continue to maintain the community orchard. There were no further matters to report.

9. Signs

Cllr Peter Barker provided an update to the Committee and presented two quotations for the proposed signage. It was agreed that further research is required to obtain the most suitable quotation, together with photographs showing the proposed waymarker. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

10. Front Garden Competition

Members of the Committee and the grounds maintenance team had judged the competition entries. It was noted that the gardens were colourful and well presented. The Committee agreed that the categories and judging date should be reviewed for next year to allow participants to showcase their gardens at their best. A ceremony will be held on 14 August, to which all participants have been invited, and each participant will receive a photograph of their garden.

11. 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
- Front Garden Competition

12. Date and venue of next meeting.

The date of the next scheduled meeting 10th September 2026 starting at 16:00 at Buxford Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 17:05