



Minutes of the meeting of  
Environment Working Group  
**Tuesday 17th September 2024, at 7.30pm**  
At Thanet House, London Road, Stroud GL5 2AD

**Present**

Cllrs Fenton, Hillary (Chair), Horrocks and Saunders

**In attendance**

Kate Montgomery (Deputy CEO/Deputy Town Clerk), Pete Bradshaw (Green Spaces Manager, (GSM)), Camilla Hale (Representing St Laurence Regeneration Project).

**Absent**

Cllr Jacobson

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs Brookes and Oldman (Personal)

**2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

None

**3. Questions from members of the public**

None

**4. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee on 9th July 2024 were **approved** and signed by the Chair.

**5. To receive a presentation regarding the redevelopment and regeneration of St Laurence Church and curtilage**

The Chair welcomed Camilla Hale to the meeting who outlined the plan for the restoration, redevelopment and regeneration of the St Laurence Church and surrounding area. The church is applying to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the bulk of the funding for the project.

Part of the project could include the refurbishment of areas of curtilage including the raised platform in Bank Gardens. It was noted that there are some broken slabs and areas which require re-pointing.

The committee **confirmed** that the Deputy CEO could approach the council's project manager to give a price for his time to cost the refurbishment as well as a ballpark figure for the work once he's visited the area.

The GSM confirmed that there is no formal management plan for Bank Gardens or the closed churchyard and that works are undertaken as they are required. This also pertains to the tree work, which is allocated after the annual arboriculture assessment which is undertaken by an external contractor.

The Chair thanked Camilla Hale for her presentation.

**Action:** Deputy CEO to ask the Council's Project Manager to assess the site at his next visit to Lansdown Hall.

#### **6. To receive the Green Spaces Manager Report**

The Green Spaces Manager presented his report and answered questions put to him from councillors.

The Chair thanked the Green Spaces Manager for his report.

#### **7. To receive the Budget Monitoring report to end of August 2024**

The Deputy CEO answered questions about the budget.

The report was received.

#### **8. To approve a tender for replacement play equipment in Park Gardens**

The tender was **approved**.

**Action:** CEO to begin the tender process.

#### **9. To approve a project to complete a plant nursery**

The GSM presented the proposal and answered questions. The proposal was **approved**.

The committee **did not approve** the use of glyphosate to remove the bindweed on the site. Members instead volunteered to join a working party group to remove the bindweed.

**Action:**

GSM to prepare a project plan

GSM to organise a working party of councillors to eradicate bindweed at the site

CEO to include in 2025-26 budget

#### **10. To note the remaining funds in the Environment Grant Fund**

The Committee noted the remaining funds and the Deputy CEO clarified that this was in fact £5,000 for the 2024-25 financial year. The Deputy CEO apologised for the confusion caused by the reporting of the incorrect figure.

#### **11. To discuss the grant application received for the Environment Fund**

##### Creative Sustainability – Access Bike

The committee discussed the elements of the application from which they thought was very thorough.

Members noted that the Council's grant guidelines state that grant funds cannot be used for general running costs.

The committee **approved** a grant of £2575 for the sessions and tools outlined in the application.

The Deputy CEO was asked to inform the applicant.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chair .....

Date .....