

## Southbourne Environment Group

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at St John's Church Centre

**Present:** Lyn Davies (Chair and notetaker), Amanda Tait (SPC), Margaret Melhuish, John Auric, Paul Metcalfe and Alison Barker

**Apologies:** Elizabeth Medler, Libby Flanagan and Roy Seabrook

- 1) **Minutes** of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March were approved. No matters arising.
- 2) **Budget.** Noted: the new financial year has started with no carry over from last year. SEG's allowance is £1500. Shed keys: AT gave LD the keys she had, thus avoiding buying a new set.
- 3) **Updates.**

**Equipment Loan form:** has been designed and used by LD. Suggestions to improve it from the Parish Clerk and PM will be incorporated for the next loan. A form for registering people joining walks had also been designed. This will also be changed, or a different one used, based on comments received. ACTION; LD

**Planters.** The timber is being stored at the Men's Shed until permission is given to place the planters on the Boots verge. JA reckoned it would take half a day to put the planters together. PM offered to store the planters in his woodland if necessary. Noted that Hilliers Garden Centre sell damaged bags of compost for £3 each.

**Tesco beds and community gardening.** Next session will be on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 10 – 12.** MM will litter pick. JA will bring grass clippers.

**Priors Orchard.** MM reported that plastic tree ties around trees needed to be removed to avoid damage. ACTION MM to contact David James who is a contact with the developers who care for the site with a view to gaining permission to remove them.

**Southbourne Gardening Club.** LD spoke to the club on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2023. Members were keen on the planting of bulbs in verges and other spaces. Gill Skidmore asked if bulbs could be planted on bank she owns on the corner of the Main Road and Prinsted Lane. This was agreed in principle along with other sites.

**Bat meets.** PM. Ten trained bat recorders attended the first session on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hambrook Wildlife Corridor for trained bat recorders. 4 - 5 species were identified and confirmed by Steve Johnson, a bat expert. The second session was cancelled through lack of takers and the third session on 17<sup>th</sup> May has three takers so far. Noted: PM has a problem with contacting people who had been trained and needed practice using recorders.
- 4) **Plans for forthcoming events.**

**Bat meets.** PM to lead. **17<sup>th</sup> May** meet will be at Farm Lane/School Lane, Nutbourne. **31<sup>st</sup> May** meet for SEG members including families, will start at 8pm at the north end of Penny Lane, by the oak tree. ACTION: PM to send LD the details so she can produce a poster to put on SPC notice boards and Facebook, and to be emailed to SEG members. Replies to LD who will forward them to PM.

**Compost advice stall at Village Hall Spring Fair on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>.** ACTION: JA to contact Karen Hayes to confirm details, including tables. AT to source gazebo and three display boards and put them in the SEG shed. LD to attend with SEG flyers to advertise our events and answer questions.

**Brook Meadow hunt for orchids and creatures in the river Ems, 10 – 11am, followed by Ems wildlife corridor walk, 11am – 1pm, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

Leaders AB and Sarah Hughes. Booking on Eventbrite is active. Free event with optional donations to Brook Meadow Conservation Group. ACTIONS: LD to make a poster to go to SEG members and be put on SPC noticeboards and Facebook. AB to liaise with LD to borrow sampling equipment.

**SEG stall at the SPC Summer Fair at the Rec Ground on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 11 – 4pm.**

ACTIONS: AB to provide an activity sheet for children with materials including paper and crayons to complete them. LD to make up a quiz about Southbourne trees for adults. LD and MM to staff the stall – other volunteers welcome to join us. AT will organise a gazebo, table, chairs and display boards (latter if needed).

- 5) **Date and Place of next meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm at St John's Church Centre, Main Road, Southbourne PO10 8LB. AT to chair the meeting in place of LD who will be away.

**Any other business.**

Facebook page management. AT has asked Jonathan Brown, the administrator of the page, to release it so that anyone can post on it. Presently messages can only be posted by AT, so items should go to her.