

Southbourne Environment Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 July 2023, 7.30pm at St John's Church Centre

Present: Lyn Davies (Chair), Amanda Tait, Lyn Hicks, Alison Barker, Anne Rowlands, Paul Metcalfe (part of meeting), Libby Flanagan Elizabeth Medler

Apologies for Absence: Margaret Melhuish, Roy Seabrook, John Auric, Richard Cobb, Elizabeth Rosoman.

- 1) **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th June were approved and Anne Rowlands was welcomed.
- 2) **Bat Walk.** Paul Metcalfe updated the group. 15 people came to the first bat walk. 25 came to the most recent walk. There was not much walking but people appreciated the evening. PM felt that another walk could be arranged in August/September when dark earlier. **ACTION:** PM see point 14 below. He would use the same model with a few tweaks. The three bat detectors would stay with Paul until then. He reported that the dead hedge put in this year was thriving.
- 3) **Planters.** Materials have been bought and the Men's Shed has made them. PM confirmed that he was happy to house these for the time being. **ACTION:** LD to pass on Paul's contact details to John Auric. LH reported that in order to install the planters outside Boots, a licence from West Sussex CC would be needed. **RECOMMENDATION:** that the Parish Council applies to WSCC for a licence to place two planters on the verge opposite Boots, on the corner of Stein Road and Main Road. **Noted:** This application needs to be with the Parish Council Office by 25th July.
- 4) **Climate change initiative.** LD had circulated details of this initiative by Sara Osman, CDC's Environment Officer. It included climate literacy training. Richard Cobb had expressed an interest in going to their initial meeting. EM suggested that Richard report back to the group. **ACTION:** LD to reply to Sara Osman
- 5) **Budget:** It was reported that recent photocopying expenses had been expensive and that a sum would be deducted for the ink cartridge from SEG's annual allowance. Amanda Tait reported that the most cost effective way of photocopying was through Arun DC who were both cheap and quick.
- 6) **Tools:** Margaret Melhuish had reported back to LD with a detailed breakdown of costs for various tools. See email 11 July 2023. This was much appreciated. It was agreed that a ladies' border fork should be purchased and long handled lawn shears. It is estimated the cost would be about £80. AT suggested the summer sale at Keydell. LD mentioned that SPC had an account with B&Q. **Noted:** LD has made an inventory of all the items in the SEG's storage shed.

- 7) **Autumn planting:** It was agreed that bulbs could be planted on the bank opposite 'Chopsticks' on the Main Road/Prinsted Lane corner bordering Prinstd Corner Cottage as the owner, Gill Skidmore, had invited us to do. Regarding MM's email, she had spoken to David James at Priors Orchard who had suggested contacting Deborah O'Connell of the management team regarding planting bulbs. ACTION: LD to contact Deborah and Gill to investigate what landowners would like planted, and to price bulbs.
- 8) **Reports:** AB reported that 15 people had attended the Ems Wildlife Corridor Walk. On this occasion, no families attended although a family watched the river dipping. Neil Botterill, who is involved with Brook Meadow, led a tour of the meadow. Sarah Hughes is now working for the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust(ARRT) on enhancing the Ems, a rare chalk river, and its Wildlife Corridor and shared her huge knowledge of it with the group. Anne Rowlands, Simon Bizley, David Barnes and Neil Botterill had signed up to be added to the SEG email list.
- 9) **Tree Stall at Summer Fair:** It was agreed that LD's picture quiz and AB's tree trail were a great success and should be used in future.
- 10) Discussion ensued on **TPOs**. LH wondered if some of the trees at the Rec could be TPO'd. AT reported that as they were on Parish Council ground, they were in a good position and unlikely to need protecting. There was general discussion about other trees in Southbourne that may profit from TPO's and LF raised the question of whether TPOs could be placed on trees in private gardens.
- 11) **Gardening outside Tesco:** LD reported that two new gardeners were on board: Lyn Hicks and Liz Rozoman. LD reported that the corner of the larger bed was vulnerable to people walking over it and there was an empty space. It agreed that perhaps a spiky shrub could be planted: Berberis/Mahonia?
- 12) **Triangular plot (north of Recreation Ground).** Following the 8 June SEG meeting LH had contacted the SPC Clerk. Sheila had agreed to include plans for the plot on the Agenda for the next Greenspace and Community Services Committee (to be held on 25 July). **Recommendation:** SEG would like to be involved in the planning process for the land and suggest that the Southbourne Gardening Club should also be invited to be involved. A key part of the planning process should be future maintenance considerations
- 13) **The litter pick** on 15th July was discussed and it was noted that bin bags would be left at any public bins around Southbourne, particularly perhaps Boots. It was reported that in the summer it wasn't easy to see litter because of undergrowth. LH raised the question of where litter picking was most needed. ACTION: It was agreed that the forthcoming pick should be used as a survey to see where most litter was. Possibly: corner of South Lane and Stein Road, Lumley Road, laybys on A259, top of Stein Road at junction with Farm Lane.

ACTION: LD to see if the Army were keeping the road south of Thornham Lane clear of litter as asked by Tracie Bangert (SPC liaison with the Army)

- 14) **Events: LD** to update calendar. **Next gardening session at Tesco:** 26th July 10.30/11.00, to be followed by a visit to the Triangle to see what what was doing well and assess other perennials which would be suitable for planting there. **ACTION: LD** will put message on Whatsapp if watering needed at Tesco.

August: no formal meeting. Gardening session: 23rd August.

September: proposed bat meet. **ACTION: PM** to pick a date. Tesco gardening 27 September.

October: bulb planting. **ACTION: LD** to order bulbs and pick a planting date

November: Talk by Mark McManus on 9th November: **ACTION: Elizabeth** to suggest to M McManus that he could talk about KNEPP rewilding and possibly do a walk next year. **ACTION: LD** to do a poster for the event and piece for Village magazine. Michelle at SPC able to post on Facebook.

December social: **ACTION: AT** agreed to get in touch with Village Hall and see if a room was available for Christmas Social on 14th December, 7-9pm. **ACTION: Jonathan Brown** is to be invited.

- 15) **Date and Place of next meeting:** Thursday September 14th 2023, 7.30pm at St John's Church Centre, Main Road, Southbourne PO10 8LB.

**** Too late for the minutes, but John Auric has arranged with Christine Iverson that she will give us an illustrated talk at the next meeting on September 14th. The title of the talk is to be confirmed, but she has written a number of books including 'The Hedgerow Apothecary Forager's Handbook' to give you an idea of her area of expertise.