

Southbourne Environment Group

Minutes of the meeting held online on Thursday 12 October 2023, 7.30pm using Microsoft Teams remote-working software

Present: Lyn Davies (Chair), Amanda Tait, John Auric (part of meeting), Alison Barker

Absence: Elizabeth Medler, Roy Seabrook

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July were approved

2. Correspondence

We have been invited to the Eco Fair at the Sailing club on 21.10.23, 10am – 1pm. Can we do anything at this? John said that he is a club member and would be happy to man a table with something simple. He will look at the website and see what is involved and liaise with the organiser. Lyn will forward him the e-mail she has received and is happy to go and help him. ACTION John to organise a stand and attend with Lyn

3. What to do about the autumn litter pick

There was agreement that a litter pick was needed, particularly along Main Road. Amanda suggested October 21st but added that anyone who wanted to could borrow a litter picker from her and do an independent clean-up. Bags should be left by public bins e.g. at Boots, near the station, on Manor Road. ACTION Lyn to e-mail SEG members with details

4. Budget and planting plans

We are waiting to find out the costs of photocopying earlier this year. Amanda will make sure the Parish council ringfences our budget as we are making constructive use of it and will try and make sure it is maintained at the current level. She hopes that the West Sussex Tree Budget will also be reinstated. Much of the budget this year has gone on enhancing our green spaces – the area outside Tesco now looks very attractive and we appreciated the sign John had made creating SEG for this. There are some problems, principally that West Sussex will not take away green waste from this activity and members have to use their own bins.

£50 has recently been spent on crocuses and Tete-a-Tete narcissi; Lyn was also able to get some telescopic-handled forks at good prices. We agreed that this was a good use of the budget.

Planting is planned this Monday on the bank where Prinsted Lane meets Main Road. Later in the year the village sign is being moved at Garsons Road and this area could also be planted up (there are daffodils on the other side of the road). We have not made progress on the Prior's Orchard verge – Lyn has a name of someone to contact. ACTIONS: Lyn to make contact about Prior's Orchard, Amanda to ask Hillier's for spare bulbs we can use

5. Reports

Autumn talk by Christine Iverson on Folklore and Superstitions of Hedgerows on 14th September. Attended by about 15 people, donations collected for Tuppenny Barn.

Gardening at Tesco's is going well, and we have a What's App group co-ordinating the gardening days. The Triangle area in the Recreation Ground is being left until spring.

Planters: We have approval from West Sussex to site these on the land outside Boots but the conditions are limiting because it is on Highways Land. They include the stipulation that they must be installed by contractors with a £10 million liability insurance. Amanda has investigated and found that anything done on Highways Land needs 'Highways Trained' contractors with high public liability. Because the Community Volunteer team who have this will be installing new signage shortly she is hopeful they will also be able to install the planters. John thought the conditions restrictive and perhaps we should install the planters elsewhere on Parish Council land. ACTION: Amanda to check about the possibility of installing elsewhere, Lyn to forward the email about the planter requirements to John. (John left the meeting at this point).

Lyn attended a Climate Change Workshop but there is potentially a lot of ongoing work as a facilitator which she does not want to do but Richard Cobb is keen to be involved.

6. Upcoming events and meetings

October: Bulb planting Monday 16th 10:30 – 11:30 on the bank at the start of Prinsted Lane (opposite the Golden Chopsticks). All welcome, message to go out on the What's App group.

November: Thursday 9th Talk by Mark McManus, joint Wildlife Corridors Officer at Chichester District Council. Title not announced yet but will cover the Wildlife Corridors and the Rewilding at Knepp. 7.30pm St John's Church meeting room.

Mark has asked if we want to visit Knepp, we are interested and will need to follow this up.

December: Social on 14th at Age Concern. This will be a Bring-and-Share supper and Christmas get-together. We agreed we were happy to clear-up afterwards rather than pay the £20 cleaning charge.

January: Winter Waders walk led by Alison. Plan is to start and finish at Payne's Boatyard and come back for teas and coffees at the end. ACTION Alison to check tide timetables and come back with a date, Amanda to ask about the possibility of using the parking.

Plus January committee meeting on 2nd Thursday of the month.

February: Talk from Brent Lodge on the work they do with injured wildlife. Elizabeth Medler is organising this.

Other ideas on the Agenda: We asked if there is a summer Parish Event. This year there will not be a Sussex Day Fete, instead there is a plan for an 8th June

D-Day Commemoration Fete with Vintage dress, a picnic and so on. (11-3pm on 8th June). Mark Barker overheard and mentioned that the Red Arrows or Battle of Britain Memorial flight can be asked to pass over your event if they are in the area and will do some research. ACTION Mark Barker to find out more and liaise with Amanda.

7. Any other business

Amanda thanked Lyn for her ongoing work steering the SEG.

8. Date and Place of next meeting: Thursday January 11th 2024, 7.30pm at St John's Church Centre, Main Road, Southbourne PO10 8LB.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Post-meeting note: Winter waders walk arranged for 20th January 10:30 – 12:30 to meet at the small car park at Prinsted. This will be advertised in the Village Magazine and Alison will produce an Eventbrite page as well.