

Southbourne Environment Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 January 2024 at St John's Church Centre, Southbourne

Present: Lyn Davies (Chair), John Auric, Alison Barker, Libby Flanagan, Lyn Hicks, John Hughes, Julia Hankers, Sarah O'Brien-Twohig, Elizabeth Medler (note taker).

Apologies: Amanda Tait (SPC), Paul Metcalfe and Roy Seabrook

Minutes of last meeting on 25th October accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Budget: LD reported that there had not been any expenditure since the last meeting. However, £200/300 of the £1500 budget had been spent on bulbs/equipment during the year. There is potential spending in connection with planters outside Boots such as plants and soil, plus mulch for Tesco bed plants.

Gardening. Action: It was decided that when bulbs planted this year begin to come up the Group doing a 'flowering foray' to identify spots where new bulbs can be planted. It was agreed that the group would continue to meet outside Tesco once a month in Spring/Summer for maintenance.

Walk. Arrangements for walk on 20th January: AB reported that only two people had booked on Eventbrite. However, with attendees at the meeting wanting to come, that figure went up to seven. **Action.** LD to send out a reminder and details of the Eventbrite link to join.

The maximum number for the walk is 10-15. The event had been advertised in the Village News as had the talk featuring Brent Lodge on February 8th.

Talks. 8th February. EM reported that Alex Foster had been informed there would be a 7pm start and that she could park in the car park.

Action: It would be helpful to know if there was a planning meeting on the 7th Feb. LD to enquire. The group arranged to meet at 7pm to set up chairs etc and welcome Alex Foster, the speaker. LD to circulate details on Facebook and to send details of the talk to Ruth Heelan (garden group). LD to also forward poster to AT so that it could be copied at an economical price (if feasible and affordable) for noticeboards eg Parish Council noticeboard.

Report: November's talk by Mark McManus on Knepp – this was a great success and approximately 35 people attended. Lyn reported that names not already on the group's email list had been added to it.

Future events in 2024

LD produced a helpful calendar for the year that the Group could gradually complete.

The following ideas came up:

- **Action:** EM suggested something on butterflies. EM to approach Michael Blencowe of Sussex Wildlife Trust to see if he could speak/facilitate a walk on butterflies or knew of someone who could. Julia also mentioned Cumberland House, Southsea. Also, Butterfly Conservation.
- **Action:** AB was willing to run an event on dragonflies and suggested Chi Canal.
- **Action:** LD to approach Paul Metcalfe to see if he would be willing to run a bat walk(s) and when.
- **Action:** John Hughes agreed to approach John Arnott, seasoned volunteer at Chichester Harbour Conservancy, to give a talk in the autumn on s subject of his choice eg local habitats, flora and fauna. Note: the second Thursday of October or November if possible.
- **Action:** LD suggested walk to Chidham Bund. JA to approach Sirlol and Roy Seabrook to see if they would be willing to run this and make a suggestion as to time and date.
- **Action:** EM reported that she had been corresponding with Mark McManus re a safari through Knepp. He had given her the price of £60 pp but was looking to see if he could reduce this. She was asking him about the best time and number of people. It was thought that the price would probably not include a minibus and that perhaps the Bourne community bus could be hired. Given the expense it was suggested the SEG budget could cover some of the cost but it was decided that this was not within its remit.
- A talk/walk on fungi was suggested.
- Sarah T suggested an annual update from Friends of the Hambrook. **Action:** LD to approach John Keynes.

Litter picks. Discussion ensued as to frequency. The following dates were arranged, although it was noted dates change if weather-compromised: 16/3/24 (to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean), June (TBA), September (TBA). **Action:** LD to liaise with Amanda Tait regarding arrangements and LH to contact AT to find out the people who are already regularly picking litter with a view to planning and targeting those area. The following areas were mentioned: the Coop on Main Road, the A259 area where lorries park. Sarah T raised the litter problem along Priors Leaze Lane and suggested 'Please don't drop litter signs' as a deterrent. It was thought that to pick litter along there would require WS Highway signs or closure of road.

Planters outside Boots

JA advised that Tim Underwood at Men's Shed couldn't find materials or tools for second planter. TU said all materials are assembled but not put together yet. This shouldn't take long. It was reported that SEG have a license to install the planters. For insurance reasons, it was thought best for contractors briefed to work on A259, to install them. **Action:** LD to check with the deputy clerk/AT what is happening on this. JA to ask AT about the modus operandi on this and whether contractors would make a charge. JA advised planters should be treated with oil to protect from the elements. Possibly they could be affixed to the metals frame of the SPC noticeboard.

It was agreed that one of the planters should have a plaque to the memory of Dougie Flanagan, who was an active and valued group member.

Age concern garden space – does SEG want to be involved?

Action: LH to speak to Sue Talbot to find out more. It was thought that SEG may be best occupied with public spaces rather than any particular organisation.

Date of next meetings: There will be the talk from Alex Foster Brent Lodge on 8th February at 7 for 7.30pm. The next general meeting to fill in the calendar will take place on Thursday March 14th in St John's Church, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 9pm.