

## Southbourne Environment Group

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

**Present:** Lyn Davies (LD) (Chair), John Auric (JA), Amanda Tait (AT), John Hughes (JH), Julia Hankers (JH), Judy Knapp (JK), Elizabeth Medler (EM) (Minute taker)

**Apologies:** Alison Barker, Lyn Hicks, Shelley Rosenberg, Roy Seabrook

**Minutes** of last meeting on 14 March were accepted as a true record and signed. There were no matters arising.

**Budget:** AT reported that it was satisfying that a water test kit had been provided for Operation Watershed (Friends of Hambrook), using the SEG budget. It was also unanimously noted that the bulbs planted in the Parish were doing extremely well and positive comments had been received by the public in respect of both the plants and sign. John Auric was thanked for his work on repairing and re-installing the damaged sign at Tesco. The sign had been reinforced using broom handles and concreted in.

The budget begins anew with £1500 for the year. It was agreed that Meadow Seed (certified) should be spread under the Holm Oak tree near Tesco. **ACTION:** AT to contact West Sussex and ask them not to mow. Ditto Boots if seed is sown there. Sarah O'Brien Twohig had suggested seed could be spread along the verge at Cooks Lane. But it was decided that this was currently not possible because of the upheaval with new housing in that vicinity. AT suggested that Meadow Seed could also be sown at the grassy corner of Boots.

**ACTION:** JK kindly offered to plant sedum plants in the Tesco beds and around Holm Oak. Her offer was welcomed by the Group. It was thought other plants could be planted in the shade of the Oak in due course, such as euphorbia.

### Planters

It was agreed by all that a donation of £50 should be made to Men's Shed towards the assembly of the planters in addition to the expenses of £38.50 for trims and linseed oil already paid. There would of course be further expenditure in terms of buying compost and plants. JA pointed out that before planters were installed daffodil bulbs would need to be removed and replaced elsewhere and the ground would need to be levelled. JA suggested putting in 300 ml slabs to weight planters. AT reported she had some slabs. JA may have material that can be used. The planters should be lined: Geotex lining was mentioned or old compost bags.

Discussion took place as to possible plants to use, namely: geraniums, pelargoniums, edible herbs such as thyme. AT said that she could keep an eye on watering. EM suggested drought resistant plants.

**ACTION:** SEG shopping for plants, placing and planting of planters to take place asap

### **Bug/bee hotel**

LH reported that she had received an email from SR who would like a bug/bee hotel to be placed in a suitable position. Discussion ensued as to how these are sometimes made from simple materials. **ACTION:** LD to write to SR to say that the Triangle will be considered as a location.

### **Future planting**

EM suggested that bulbs could be planted on the grass verge surrounding the bus stop near Travellers Joy. **ACTION:** SEG in due course.

### **Future events**

AT reported that she had attended the opening of Marina Farm purchased by The Chichester Harbour Trust. It was suggested that a walk could take place perhaps in Spring 2025. **ACTION:** Peter Hughes to be contacted.

AT to approach Sarah Hughes to give a talk to the group in February 2025. It was hoped that Sarah might be able to come to future meetings when she moves to Westbourne.

LD reported receipt of an email from Siriol Seabrook regarding a walk to see the green winged orchids on the Chidham bund. She asked for any preference for one of 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon. AB had offered to lead the walk (approx.4 miles). Siriol reported that the green winged orchids were already flowering. The group had no preference as to date. Noted that there was considerable sea wall damage after the storms and high tides. **ACTION:** LD to advise that they choose a date which is convenient for them.

EM reported that it had been difficult to find a date for Michael Blencowe to talk on butterflies but it was hoped he could speak on Wednesday 16 October. LD had booked the upstairs room at St John's. **ACTION:** EM/AT/LD to check this date suitable for Michael and to let AT know (for the purposes of informing Greening Westbourne and Stephen Johnson (Maybush Copse). LD to publicise in Village magazine and Parish noticeboard.

**ACTION:** EM to receive invoice from Michael Blencowe and forward to Parish Clerk.

The November 14<sup>th</sup> talk with John Arnott would go ahead as planned in the upstairs room at St John's. EM to assist with overhead projector/screen.

## **Litter**

It was agreed that a litter pick would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> September, 11am-1pm from AT's home. AT reported that a young Brownie had reported concern over litter and Brownie's were coming up with the design of no litter signs for a Skipping Badge.

## **Working party**

It was reported that a working party would take place at the Triangle on 17 April, 10.30 with possibly another session on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>, 2.30 to 4.30pm. AT reported that some of the plants that had been planted formerly were still there but Elder needed pruning. It was agreed that at the session there would be assessment as to what was doing well and what was not. Discussion ensued as to green waste and it was agreed that a compost heap should be made, possibly using pallets or chicken wire.

## **Vote of thanks to our Chair Lyn Davies**

AT thanked LD for the quality of her work throughout the year and for continued commitment as Chair. AT asked LD if she was prepared to continue for another year and LD consented.

**Date and place of next meeting:** Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> at St John's Church Centre. JK sent apologies in advance for the May meeting. LD sent apologies in advance for the September meeting.

**Please note information received after the meeting:** The AGM of Southbourne Parish Council will be taking place on the same evening, May 9<sup>th</sup>, as the SEG meeting. To accommodate this the SEG meeting will start later at 1945, and in the event of the PC meeting still being in progress will be held in the Foyer