

Southbourne Environment Group

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 July 2024, 7.30pm at St John's Church Centre, Southbourne**

**Present:** Lyn Davies (LD) (Chair), John Auric (JA) Amanda Tait (AT) John Hughes (JH), Alison Barker (AB) Lyn Hicks (LH) Sarah O'Brien-Twohig (SOT) Julia Hankers (JH), Elizabeth Medler (EM)

**Apologies:** Roy Seabrook (RS), Judy Knapp (JK) Naomi Pattisson (NP), Mark McManus (MM)

**Minutes** of last meeting on 13 June 2024 were accepted as a true record and signed.

**Matters arising:** LD had researched cost for a sack of mixed daffodils. This would be 500 bulbs for c.£50. These would be available to plant in public places plus given away free to anyone applying for them. The following suggestions were made: around new Southbourne signs (probably installed in September), Garsons Road and Southbourne Avenue, Hurstwood Avenue junction with Cooks Lane, Old Farm Lane, triangle of land near Travellers Joy.

First aiders: AT believes first aid training takes place at Bourne Leisure Centre but she has not yet had a response. Last time this cost £15 per head. Smallcutts Avenue: dumping ground around garages. **Action:** AT will follow up.

**Budget:** It was confirmed that £50 for the planters had been approved for Men's Shed. **Action:** JA will ask Men's Shed to submit an invoice. Budget for SEG: AT believed this was the usual £1,500 pa but LD had heard from the Parish Clerk Michelle that this was £1,000 from 1 April. **Action:** AT to clarify.

**General:** AT reported that Highways will not take on responsibility for trimming hedge above the cherry trees at the northern end of Stein Road. Therefore, this should be now included within the Parish's own scope of works. It was thought this would come out of the SEG budget.

**River testing/water quality Hambrook:** LD reported that she had received an email from Paul Metcalfe on this question. Testing would be for water quality/ammonia/e coli. Friends of Hambrook and Sarah Hughes were carrying out the tests. PM will complete the application for testing in various places. £86.40 had already been granted and it was agreed that a further £160 would be paid by SEG for two future events. AT reported that Chidham/Hambrook/Southbourne now have a Watershed working group addressing things like flooding and sewerage. Sarah Hughes wanted to bring Westbourne in. This is seen as building up a good evidence base. SOT reported an article in the Sunday Observer on the subject and Jess Brown-Fuller was already on board. LD reported that figures for testing go into the National Recording Scheme Riverfly.

**Litter pick:** AT reported that two new people had attended the recent pic. There appeared to be less litter than usual. 8 people came along. Residents Sean & Sarah

pick throughout the year. AT mentioned the possibility of 'adopting a road'. It was reported that Michelle had included an item in the SPC newsletter encouraging people to do their own litter picking. Next litter pick 21 September, 11am to 1pm.

**Plaque:** AT suggested a plaque should go on each planter. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that JA obtain a quote from Hinds in Havant. The wording would be agreed by email. Men's Shed to produce their own sign to advertise their involvement. It was thought that the plaques could be affixed in September. Once done, these would unveiled for Libby followed (possibly) by a small celebration at AT's.

**Tesco beds:** LD was congratulated for a good choice of plants. It was reported that the Tesco beds looked very good. **Action:** LD to set up dates in Autumn for clearing at the Triangle. Saturday 12 October was one suggestion. Donated plants were welcome. AT mentioned a donation of cat mint and NP had offered to bring back any donations from West Dean.

**Bat walk:** This will be run by AB and will take place on 5 September at 7.15pm starting at the carpark of the Leisure Centre. AB will begin in the vicinity and continue from there. AT will advise if there are key places to look at nearer the time. Hambrook bat recording: **Action:** AT will speak to Sarah Hughes about her availability re leading a walk.

**Dragonflies of Chichester Canal** This will take place with AB on 14 September, 11-1pm starting at Hunston car park. Event would initially be contained to people on SEG mailing list (various people attending meetings had already expressed an interest). AB will set a deadline possibly 10 September. **Action:** LD to give AB password for SEG email address. If necessary the invitation could be extended to Westbourne and Maybush Copse.

**Next meeting of SEG:** It was agreed that SEG meet half an hour before the talk on butterflies on 9<sup>th</sup> October ie 6.30pm to 7pm followed by setting up the upstairs room. **Action:** EM agreed to try out the projector upstairs in September and would meet up with AB who would bring her laptop.

**AOB:** EM reported the application by Metis Homes to build new homes east of Inlands Road which she believed would impinge greatly on the local bat population as well as other wildlife. An ecology report had been carried out by Metis which admits at least 10 species of bat. EM highlighted the Southbourne Planning Committee Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July when Metis would come along and there would be an opportunity to put forward any views.

AB was thanked for her excellent work at Southbourne Junior School on the wildlife front, particularly the recent event where c.60 birdwatchers made and put up bird boxes around the School grounds. **Action:** AB will write something for Parish Newsletter and send to Michelle.

**Next meeting:** **Wednesday 16th October 2024**, 6.30pm to 7pm (before the talk) at St John's Centre, ie different from our usual Thursday because of the talk.