

Southbourne Environment Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2024 at St John's Church Centre, Southbourne

Present: Lyn Davies (LD) (Chair), John Hughes (JH), Alison Barker (AB) Julia Hankers (JH), Naomi Pattisson (NP) Elizabeth Medler (EM) (Minute taker)

Apologies: Amanda Tait (AT), John Auric (JA) Lyn Hicks (LH), Roy Seabrook (RS), Judy Knapp (JK)

Minutes of last meeting on 11 April 2024 were accepted as a true record and signed. There were no matters arising.

Budget: LD summarised expenditure on compost and plants, seed for Holm Oak site and treatment for planters, totalling £115.42.

ACTION: LD to make a donation of £50 to Men's Shed for their excellent work building the planters. Men's Shed (Tim Underwood) had requested that a plaque be fixed to the planters noting their involvement and it was reported that they would be dealing with this. An engraved plaque would be placed in memory of Dougie Flanagan and SEG would arrange this. To this end LD reported that she had been to Soles of Emsworth and was researching other estimates.

Reports: It was reported that planters had been successfully installed by Boots noticeboard on 30 April. Great thanks was expressed to JA for his part in the project and to LD and JA for shopping for compost and plants. Good feedback had been received on Facebook but a member of the public had made a complaint on a health & safety basis. LD had met with Sheila Hodgson (Parish Clerk) to inspect the planters. SH suggested that the planter on the right of the notice board could be made safer by placing a complete paving under the back right leg, or shortening the legs. **ACTION:** LD to speak to JA about this. LD pointed out that regular dead-heading was important and EM pointed out the tap outside St John's Centre although water is available at AT's.

There was discussion about further planting in the planters in the Autumn: It was agreed that drought resistant, bug friendly, tough plants were needed such as *Nepeta* and *Salvia*. NP reported that West Dean often give away plants at certain times of year. NP kindly offered to take any suitable plants for SEG and liaise with LD where they could be left.

Triangle: It was reported that a working party had recently removed weeds, plantain, nettles, brambles and horsetail at the site. This area is being developed as a wildlife friendly area, with some educative signage. The group would be back for further maintenance in the Autumn. A bird box and bee hotel is planned. LD reported that she knew someone who may be able to contribute wooden pallets. Members of the wider Group could be asked to contribute hollow logs and pine cones. Holes could be drilled in wood for bees to nest.

Bird boxes: AB advised that Tim from Men's Shed said that bird boxes for the primary school project would be available from June. These would be placed at the school and there may be one or two spares available for the Triangle.

Holm Oak space: LD reported she would like that wildflower seeds for the Holm Oak be scattered week beginning 12 May and a working party had been invited. This was weather dependent.

Future events

- Chidham Walk: It was agreed that this should be re-arranged as no definite route and advertising was in place. It was suggested that AB and Sirlol do a 'reccy' for next year and put a firm route and date in place.
- Litter picking: It was confirmed that this would be 22nd June from AT's, from 11am to 1pm.
- Bat walk: It was reported that Paul Metcalfe still had the bat detectors.
ACTION: LD to approach PM to see if he would like to run a bat walk.
- Chichester Canal Walk for dragonflies: It was agreed that this should take place on **Saturday 14 September, 11-1pm with a maximum of 15 people.** AB to lead with a SEG only group, but if interest poor the event to be published on Eventbrite/Facebook and details to Stephen Johnson at Maybush Copse. AB suggested that the walk start at Hunston on the B1245.
ACTION: LD to arrange advertising encouraging people to register their interest. **ACTION:** AB offered to write some advertising for the Group, warning people that if dragonflies are not around because of wet weather, it will be a natural history walk instead.
- Autumn bulb planting: **ACTION:** LD to make a list. LD to approach project manager at Priors Orchard to see if they would like some bulbs planted on the verge in the New Year. EM suggested that some bulbs could be planted on the land around the bus stop near Travellers Joy. It was reported that some bulbs might have been dug up by contractors.
- It was reported that Sarah Hughes had agreed to give a talk to SEG in January/February 2025. **ACTION:** AT to liaise with SH.
- March/April 2025 – walk at Marina Farm with Peter Hughes. **ACTION:** AT to approach Peter Hughes. If not, John Haynes happy to do so. There could also be an early morning walk at Maybush Copse.

Next meeting: Thursday 13 June 2024 at St John's Centre