

Southbourne Environment Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025 7.30 pm at St John's Church Centre, Southbourne.

Present: Lyn Davies (LD) (Chair), Alison Barker (AB) Judy Knapp (JK) Lyn Hicks (LH), Naomi Pattinson (NP), Sarah O'Brien-Twohig (SOT) Elizabeth Medler (EM)

Apologies: Roy Seabrook, John Auric, Julia Hankers, Liz Rosoman, Libby Flanagan

1. **Minutes of the last meeting** of 9 January 2025 were approved, subject to amendments below.

2. **Matters arising**

Action AT: from the 9 January Minutes: *'AT hoped to get tree budget back and order more trees, including those free from the Woodland Trust. However, these were in bundles of 50. Action: Amanda to check what they have. Paul Metcalfe proposed that any spare trees could go to Friends of Hambrook. SOT suggested that trees could be offered to new housing estate residents.'*

Under point 3 of 9 January Minutes – this should be amended to Purging Buckthorn. This is in the Triangle as well as Wayfarer tree.

It was confirmed that Paul Metcalfe had picked up the gas canister and dealt with it. See point 3 9 January Minutes. He had also donated Rudbeckia and Sedum and has offered more of both.

There was discussion about the **Holm Oak**. SOT raised the possibility of affixing to the tree or nearby details of its imminent removal. **ACTION:** LD to send her word document with text from Village Magazine concerning this. LD reported that a new tree (Hornbeam) would be planted by WSCC in the grassy area after the oak was felled.

E-coli testing. LD confirmed that the SEG donation had been made. Paul Metcalfe had sent the e-coli report which would be circulated to those present. LD confirmed that PM had been awarded a grant from Southbourne Parish Council.

Outstanding: PM had not yet donated a strip of LED lighting for the shed, but this would not be needed until the Winter. Note a battery would have to be purchased.

3. **Budget.** It was confirmed that the budget was £1,500 (see 9 January Minutes).
Recommended: LD to purchase 6 Lavenders, 3 Marjoram, 3 Creeping Thyme, 3 upright Rosemary to plant at the triangle, and edging for the path to the compost heap.
First Aid kits: LD reported that there was a large First Aid Kit in the shed. However, she suggested that smaller ones should be available to take to gardening sessions. **Action:** LD to investigate. **Recommended:** LD buy at least one small first aid kit to take to gardening session. SOT suggested purchasing more bulbs for the Autumn. **Recommended:** LD to buy a sack of daffodils later in the year. **Action** SEG to plant bulbs in various locations in the Autumn.

4. Reports.

Triangle. LD raised the possibility of preparing a risk assessment for gardening sessions, but it was felt that SEG's activities may be too modest for this. **Action** LD to consult the parish clerk, AB recommended planting lungwort as an early food source for bees. LD reported that she is propagating some. AT has primroses and pinks to be planted out. The question of water and where to obtain it near the Triangle was discussed. [Subsequently - after a working party visit to the Triangle - it was agreed that water should only be got from the Pavilion and not from Bourne View.]

Action: LD to speak to Men's Shed to see if they can make information labels for the plants from wood in the form of a T.

Cherry trees on Stein Road: JA was thanked for his good work in obtaining quotes re the reduction of the overhang over the cherry trees at the north end of Stein Road. John had prepared a report (appended to these Minutes) setting out 5 options. Most involved ongoing expense. There were now only two trees on the West side, so this was clearly a vulnerable spot. The general consensus was that these trees should be moved to another location. **Action:** for further discussion at the May meeting.

Talks: LD reported that both of the recent talks had been well received with perhaps 35/40 people attending. Sarah Hughes' talk had attracted £130 and this had been donated to the Western Sussex Rivers Trust. John Arnott's talk had attracted £68 – this was made up to £75 by SEG and donated to Chichester Harbour Trust. LD brought along receipts.

Litter pick: LD reported that 5 people had attended the recent litter pick and 8 bags of litter collected. LD reported that the event had been advertised on social media and in the Village magazine. It was noted that a number of people litter pick on a regular basis

Southbourne Library has had its cherry tree removed and a neighbour had removed adjoining hedge, which was a popular nesting site for sparrows. it was felt that it would be helpful to re plant a hedge beside the fence or a new tree. The consensus was in favour of hedging. The librarian seemed open to this and reported that he would talk to speak in Chichester. However, nothing further had been reported back. **Action:** AB will determine who to approach at WSCC. AB reported that Chichester were currently celebrating '100 years of Libraries', so this may be a good time for them to mark this by agreeing that a hedge could be planted.

5. Forthcoming events:

Village fete 14th June. LD suggested SEG should have a stall at the triangle with an SEG banner along the fence and a gazebo. It was suggested that people could be invited to help construct a bug hotel though it was pointed out that the Junior School were expecting to do this too. LD has asked Emsworth Horticultural Society if they have a pallet for its construction and is waiting to hear. It was also thought that Hilliers might donate one. The SEG publication 'Helpful Hints.....' would be given out.

Green winged orchid walk Sunday 11th May, 2pm from Chidham Bund: AB suggested no more than 15/16 people. **Action:** AB will send details to LD for publication to SEG email list.

Solar boat trip: LD had been provided with a programme of sailings by John Arnott. However, prices may be a bit high. A canal trip was favoured instead, September time. Wider group to be invited. LD to look into prices. [LD subsequently circulated details and prices.]

Bat walk: AB and possibly SH would conduct this walk. Various locations discussed but LD's suggestion of Marina Farm, Thornham Lane seemed likely. **Action:** AB to speak to Sarah Hughes to agree date and final location.

Talks: AB will speak about Dragonflies on 13th November and Jane Reeve about Tackling Climate Change on the Manhood Peninsula on 9th October. Suggestions for future: LH suggested that allotment holders could be asked to talk on the highs and lows of caring for an allotment. Emsworth/Westbourne allotment holders could be included. LD suggested a quiz. Further discussion will ensue at the May meeting. **Action:** More thought and suggestions for talks or events for winter 2026.

6. **AOB:** AB will ask for more details from the People's Trust for Endangered Species – perhaps the possibility of cameras in people's gardens to observe hedgehogs etc.

Date of next meeting: 8th May 2025, 7.30 pm, St John's Centre, Southbourne