

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting

Monday 31 October 2022

Minutes

Present:

David George (Chair)
Jose Castro
Mina McPhee
Stuart McPhee
Martin Ralph
Paddy Riordan
Adele Sharp,
Natasha Thomas
Shirley Wigzell

Guest: Richard Griffiths (Parish Clerk)

Apologies:, Bill McLaughlin David Charge

Minutes of previous meeting

Approved.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

- a. *Water butts* – Parish Clerk reported that the water butts were damaged and we were to get our money back so that more could be ordered.
- b. *Wimpey Fields nature cameras* – these have now been installed.
- c. *Compost bin* – this has now been built and placed in situ by the Men's Shed.

2. Budget 23-24

DG ran through the highlights of the proposed 23-24 budget.

Queen's commemoration tree – The main issue of planting a single commemoration tree is finding a suitable location which is sufficiently public and easily accessible for planting. It was also recommended that the budget for this be raised to £750 as the tree will have to be reasonable large and will need to be dug in properly. It was pointed out that all the new trees being planted (for which NT has kindly offered auger) could be considered part of the Queen's Canopy project and therefore commemorative. There are several lots of saplings either already arrived or due to arrive in January.

Following further discussion about the budget it was proposed that DG submit it having made the necessary changes to it.

3. Replacement Plum Tree at Wimpey Fields

There has been a request for a dead plum tree to be replaced. It was agreed that since several trees need replacing, these should all be done at the same time. A petrol auger will be required to dig the holes for them. A date in January (to be advised by Parish Clerk) will be set for the plantings.

As an aside, it was reported that that there has been very little vandalism at the Wimpey Fields this summer.

4. Weeding

It was noted that there is an urgent need for the community beds to be weeded. In particular, the Parade beds and the bed at Chestnut Avenue. It was agreed that volunteering for this should be handled differently. If any GSG member is going to be out weeding, they should individually put out a call for help on the local Facebook pages indicating the date, place and time.

5. New Chair

The Group thanked David George for his Chairmanship and energy on behalf of GSG. Natasha Thomas has kindly stepped up to the Chair position. DG will remain on the Group.

NT indicated that the group should return to a model where individuals with a keen interest in a particular area should get on with doing whatever is needed for that project and that the rest of the group would be there to support them.

6. Any other Business

GSG new members – it was agreed that the group needs new members and new energy. To that end, it is proposed that the recently appointed councillors to the Parish Council be invited to the next GSG Meeting.

Volunteers – it is proposed that GSG volunteering should be re-launched in 2023. It was pointed out that there may be members of the Youth Club who may be interested in helping out.

PR – it was agreed that the Group needs to be more vocal and visible on the village FB pages in order to raise awareness of green issues as well as the group.

7. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

MM

4 December 2022