

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting

09.10.24

Minutes

Attending: Natasha Thomas, Jose Castro, Shirley Wigzell, Dave Charge, Martin Ralph, Dave George, Val George

Apologies: Paddy Riordan

1. Budget 25/26

Area	Activity	Budget Allocated
Parade beds South (1,2,3)	Maintain current planting. Fill up with further compost for enrichment of soil. Relaying of weed membrane and woodchip is a priority for the spring season in this space.	£300
Parade beds South (4)	Build new bed, using green wood sleepers & liner + hexagon head screws + soil (already purchased) + fully planted up.	£400
Parade beds North (5,6,7)	Maintain.	
Maddie's Herb bed	Maintain. A couple of herbs need replacing + fresh woodchip for the path but for the most part it's maintenance and other items will be sourced through the group i.e. replacement edging branches.	£50
Notice Board bed	Bed structure plus planting – project for new year.	£100
Kebab Shop (3 beds)	Additional planting to thicken out the planting – further the impact. (maintenance budget)	£100
Village Sign South – 2 beds	Beds are due for refurbishment. We will need .75 of a bag of soil across the two beds and no liner as it's not as weedy as other areas. We will also source organic material to line the bottoms to use less compost rich soil towards the top. Beds will then need replanting, repurposing current plants/bulbs + adding in more for more of an impact as you enter/exit the village. We will likely use green wood sleepers and request that Homeleights splits in half to enable them to fit into the tighter spaces on the verge.	£200
Village Sign North – 2 beds	As above.	£200
Village Sign West – 1 bed	TBC – will come from the wider maintenance budget allocation if needed.	£100
Jubilee Field Entrance	This has been recently replanted. Further Maintenance and review once winter is over will enable focused idea	£50

	on spend, but aligning small budget for any replacement/additional planting	
Chestnut Avenue (to extend around George Street along the hedge by traffic lights)	Spring bulbs around the trees and hedge with bulbs to make an impact in a space where much of the village spends time. Daffodils and Crocus will allow for naturalising and high impact planting.	£200
	Enhancement of Chestnut bed and new strategy for maintenance due to challenging position.	£400
Church Green Pavement	Identified as area for spring bulbs enrichment	£50
Jefrey Close	More wildflowers and naturalising plants in the new year.	£150
Ponytel Pond	Allocation of effort required for maintenance.	

2. Planters and Beds

- **New Parade Bed**
In memory of Jon Grimwood, to be added to pharmacy side beds. Dave Charge will measure up, purchase sleepers, build and position in place. Liner and compost to be purchased and planter filled ready for planting. Dave will approach Danielle Grimwood about her and her daughter being involved in the selection of plants and planting.
- **Village Gateway Planters on A229**
These are fit for purpose as they currently stand and planting is not impactful. Natasha will measure and liaise with Dave C about wood that needs to be purchased along with additional materials.
- **Spring Bulbs**
To be purchased and planted in various areas around the village, Jeffrey Close and an area adjacent to the A229 near Frittenden Rd junction (What3words TRICKLING.PROFILE.DRIVEN)

3. Homeleights Account

When goods are to be purchased from Homeleights, the village clerk must be contacted first.

Compost has already been put aside for GSG. They will need to know when and where it is to be delivered – likely usage is within the parade (new bed) and refurbished village planters.

4. Advertising/ Village Update

Val to write article for Village Update asking for volunteers, and informing villagers of the changes made to the village by GSG, in the last few years. This will then be sent to Natasha, to add a group photo Parish Magazine. Val to send details of submitting articles for the magazine to Natasha

5. Request to Council/Clerk

a) **Homeleights purchases to be made:**

12 Sleepers – Green wood. Cuts to be discussed on pick up.
1 large roll of PlantX weed membrane
Hexagon head screws – 100

Clerk to confirm once this is available for pick up please – email Natasha Thomas & David George to coordinate projects.

b) Update of Financial position:

Request for Parish Office to provide GSG with a set of accounts showing total purchases + budget remaining on a monthly basis to enable easier budget keeping please. Provided to Natasha Thomas & Val George.

6. A.O.B

- Scout projects.
Martin indicated that the scouts could help the GSG with some of the projects that are planned. Suggested that planting spring bulbs (crocuses) would be something they could do. Natasha will purchase bulbs. Martin to organise.
- Rumwood Account
Despite numerous requests to the Parish Office, no action has been taken. Dave G to approach Deborah.asap.
- Request for connection to the team looking after the Wimpy Field – share their work plan and allow for insight sharing/alignment to the GSG agenda for 2025
- Group photo taken