

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 7th March 2022

Minutes

Present:

David George (Chair)
David Charge
Bill McLaughlin
Mina McPhee
Stuart McPhee
Louise Pettifer
Martin Ralph
Paddy Riordan

Apologies: Natasha Thomas, Stuart McPhee, Shirley Wigzell

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved.

2. Eco Day – 14th May

LP outlined the arrangements already in place. LP has produced a poster which will be put up on notice boards (draft copy attached). LP and Silke, the vicar, are the main organisers with MM helping out. Friday 13th has been set aside to set up for the events on the Saturday. Church volunteers have been asked to help with both days. While all activities are free, there will be a notice indicating that any donations to the Church will be welcomed.

Action: The Facebook post advertising the event to be shared across all PC and village sites once it has been posted by the Church at the end of March. LP will keep everyone informed of the date.

The following actions were agreed for all GSG members:

- a. There will be a GSG table at the Eco day which will need a GSG member presence through the day. Please can all members put the date in their diaries and inform MM about whether they will be able to stand at the GSG table for an hour or two during the day so that a presence can be co-ordinated for the entirety of the event (10am – 4pm).
- b. It was agreed that where possible GSG members should plant vegetable and flower seedlings for handing out to anyone who comes to the GSG table. This will be a good conversation starter and may help people (and children especially) to get started with plantings. MM, DC and BM have already offered to plant for the event. All other offers of seedlings will be gratefully received.
- c. It was agreed that additional T-shirts should be bought for resale at the Eco Day. Approval to be sought from Parish Council for this expenditure.
- d. MM to create a table top poster to inform people about the work of GSG: what we do, why and previous achievements (village beds, PC now using green energy, tree planting, etc.).

3. Jubilee Field Beds

DG informed that group that he had accepted, on behalf of GSG, a 3m x 60cm planter complete with plants offered by MBC. This will be in place of the previous plan of putting easy maintenance plants in that bed. It is proposed that there should be wildflowers in front of the planter.

4. Tree planting update

A good start on tree planting has been made; 16 saplings have now been planted at Stanley Close, Bathurst Road/Pope Close, Headcorn Road between Poyntell and Slaney. and South Bank/Hanmer Way.

Action: Parish Clerk to remind contractors to be extra careful in these areas in order to avoid mowing them down.

Staplehurst Women's Institute would like to plant a tree in the village to commemorate the WI centenary. GSG is supporting this initiative.

Action: DG will work with the WI in order to agree the most suitable site in the village and to help them get the tree planted and a plaque put up.

5. Parade bed

It was agreed that an additional bed (8ft x 8ft) should be added to the shopping parade. The wood for this project has been purchased at a cost of £100.

Action: DC will build the bed and Peter Spearink has offered to paint it.

6. Follow up action required by PC Clerk on previous GSG decisions

- a. *Wimpey Field Review by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership* – A request was made at the Parish Council on 29th November, and approved, for a 10 year review to be carried out. Please can the Parish Clerk action this immediately.
- b. *Wimpey Field works quote* – Jon Grimwood has already provided a quote and two other quotes are needed for the works to be carried out at Wimpey Fields. This needs to happen immediately as JG quoted for this about three months ago.
- c. *Village Compost Bin* – following discussions late last year, some plans for a village compost been along with proposed sites were forwarded to the Parish Clerk who was to have got in touch with the landlord to seek their agreement to the project. Please can GSG have an update on this as a compost bin is vital now that weeding season has started again and there will be issues relating to green waste. PR indicated that should the Parish Clerk not have success he could get in touch with the landowner in order to ask for permission.

Action: MM to get in touch with Parish Clerk for an update on the points above.

7. Flower beds and planters

Now that spring is upon us all the beds will need to be weeded.

Action: MM indicated that she will contact the volunteers and get them started where possible.

The point was made that volunteers are needed to help us keep up with all the sites around the village. It was agreed that the Eco Day will be a good opportunity to recruit more volunteers.

Village Centre beds

DG mentioned a request he had received that parts of the Village Centre be weeded. It was pointed out that unless GSG knew exactly what was required and explicit permission given, the GSG volunteers would be unable to do anything at the Village Centre.

Action: AS to liaise with DG about the scope of the work needed.

8. Any Other Business

Herb Bed – GSG agreed that the herb bed should be named ‘Maddie’s Herb Garden’ and that a little name plaque should be made for it.

Action: To get this decision ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20 March 2022

Mina McPhee

13 March 2022