

## **Draft Minutes : Stoke Environment Group, 7pm 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Attendees: Judy Blair, Mike Blair, Polly Burns-Cox, John Clarke, Nicola Coate, Dave Evans, Sarah Evans, Helen Grant, Karen Housego, Fi McQueen, Janice Pearce, Lin Silcock, Ian Upshall, Nicolette Williams, Trevor Williams. (15)

Apologies: Andrew Boyle, Heidi Boyle, Jonathon Coate, David Crabbe, Susan Crabbe, Holly Hembrow, Peter House, Helen Ley, Julie Meikle, Paul Parmenter, Charlotte Sunquist, Jo Valentine, Jane Williams. (13)

1. Ian Upshall facilitated the meeting.
2. Re-cap of the origins of forming a Stoke environment Group, the FSG and PC. Celebrated the excellent work done by the FSG.
  - Janice Pearce continues to liaise with the primary school – going really well.
  - Emma Arthurs is contact person for CCA, and on the email list.
  - There are 44 people in total who have expressed an interest in the Environment Group and are on the email list.
3. Discussed what the group wants to be called: Suggestions were:
  - Sustainable Stoke
  - Stoke Environment Group
  - Green Gregory
  - Stoke Environment Partnership

Decision to be made at the next meeting. Attendees were invited to bring forward suggestions to next meeting.

4. Discussed Group Objectives: Suggestions were:
  - Education
  - Biodiveristy
  - Environment at home
  - Waste and recycling
  - Information (resources)
  - Safer environment
  - Tackling Climate Change, one sustainable step at a time
5. Discussed a Vision for the Group:
  - People liked the vision statement from Ugborough
  - To share vision with other village groups, so can be an agreed vision, with school, WI, HOTV, PC, VH, WWC and Playing Fields Committee etc.

Ian Upshall will draft a vision statement and email out to everyone.

6. Discussed and suggested tasks that could be undertaken: Asking the question does it help with climate change?
- Habitat for wildlife – bug hotel, bat/bird boxes, hedgehog habitats, bee houses.
  - Wildflower planting – meadow, verges, footpaths, around the memorial at play fields.
  - Wild areas in gardens, composting, vegetable growing
  - Survey – garden wildlife
  - Hedgehog survey
  - Home energy use survey
  - Litter pick - regular
  - Footpath access, signage, stiles
  - Tree planting – community woodland
  - Hedge planting
  - Orchard – press fruit. Can hire equipment from CCA
  - Education on how our environment has changed over time – to help people understand the impact of climate change
  - Clothes swap
  - Bus stop at top of Dark Lane – wildflower, bin
  - Traffic control – 20mph
  - Traffic free footpath route around the village
  - More dog poo stations
  - Recycle point at HOTV
  - Eco shop (within local shop), range of affordable products, including dog poo bags
  - Bike racks, benches, promoting not taking the car.

Other suggestions from people unable to attend the meeting were:

- Mobility scooter path
- Copse at village hall, create mini nature trail, signage, habitat
- Photo competition, '*Our Environment*', prize framed photo displayed in HOTV, calendar, age groups to encourage young people to participate.
- Wildlife pond
- Light, air, waste pollution information, to raise awareness – social media, Stoke News etc.

7. Discussed defining the 'Topic Areas':

Some village environment groups have between three and seven Topic Areas to facilitate projects. People felt that seven was too many, suggested combining some of the headings.

Ian Upshall to draft some proposals and email out to everyone.

Polly has kindly offered to coordinate a group subject to improved definition of working groups.

8. Discussion on Group Structure and Management:

The group decided on a 'house-keeping structure', monthly meetings and identify individuals for projects as the group develops. Management posts to include:

- Chair
- Communications – Social Media/website
- School Liaison – Janice Pearce
- Secretary

Nicola Coate kindly offered the group the free use of the meeting room at the Wetland and Willow Centre.

9. Areas of interest with further information requested:

- The effect of agricultural practises on our environment.
- How to make a hedgehog house out of things in our garden or nature.
- Recycling
- Reducing plastics
- Green sustainability
- Definition of recycling, biodegradable, compostable etc

10. Discussed an Environment Fair.

Everyone agreed and supported having an Environment Fair (Name to be decided) at the beginning of October (before half-term).

To include:

- Displays from primary school children
- Solarsense
- Hopefully the Somerset Wildlife Trust

Other stands and displays to be explored.

9. Discussion on Next Meeting:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> July suggested.

Village Hall subsequently booked for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 at 7pm.

Ian Upshall to facilitate the meeting.

Fill key posts in management team at the next meeting.

Invite village groups to next meeting.

