

Stoke Environment Group

Minutes of the Meeting 22nd July 2021

Attendees: Emma Arthurs, Polly Burns-Cox, Andrew Boyle, Dave Evans, Sarah Evans, Helen Grant, Karen Housego, Fi McQueen, Janice Pearce, Ian Upshall, Phil Stone, Dave Smith, Trevor Williams. (13)

Apologies: Judy and Mike Blair, Heidi Boyle, John and Marilyn Clarke, Nicolette Williams, David and Susan Crabbe, Briand Grant, Adrian and Louise Grinter, Helen Ley, Jo Valentine, Charlotte Sunquist, Edwina Hansford, Jane Williams. (16)

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of Meeting 1 (June 2021) were agreed without amendment.

3. Agreement of Proposals (Vision, Objectives, etc.)

Attendees were invited to comment on the proposals for a Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Working Groups and scope. The following were agreed. Words in red were amendments to the original proposal.

Vision Statement

A rural community that is friendly, inclusive and resilient where people share skills, ideas, knowledge, experience and time. A connected and healthy community, where everyone can get around with minimal carbon emissions. A green community that is rich in wildlife, that encourages biodiversity and cares for all species. An empowered community, where every individual can make a positive difference for the benefit of all. A socially responsible and sustainable community where we actively care for our environment and the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Mission Statement

- To share information, enabling constructive dialogue around sustainability and supporting positive behaviour change
- To identify opportunities to support and enable the reduction of carbon dioxide, other greenhouse gases and waste
- To respect, protect and restore our natural environment by fostering greater community awareness
- To create a self-reliant and environmentally resilient Parish where community cohesion and well-being are enhanced

Objectives

- To make a positive contribution towards finding practical and affordable ways of reducing carbon emissions in our community
- To champion environmental awareness by working with all ages and experience and sharing reliable information that will lead towards a greater understanding of our impact on the natural world
- To support our natural world, and where possible, increase the diverse range of birds, plants, insects and mammals in our community
- To promote practises that have a positive and lasting benefit on our environment
- To encourage participation and inclusivity in the group's work leading to an improvement in personal wellbeing and sense of belonging

Working Groups and Scope

- Biodiversity
 - Understanding the challenge
 - Undertaking nature surveys
 - Monitoring endangered species
 - Wildflower planting
 - Developing and implementing solutions to support and increase biodiversity
- Hedges & Trees
 - Surveys and mapping of species and locations
 - Identifying improvements and planting opportunities
 - Developing and maintaining a positive relationship with landowners
 - Planting new hedges and trees to increase the community's Carbon Capture and to support species reliant on these habitats
 - Managing communal resources
- Mobility & Transport
 - Mapping paths, tracks and permissive routes etc.
 - Improving signage and guides
 - Identifying improvements to access whilst respecting coexisting natural habitats
 - Encouraging responsible use of motor transport
 - Providing improved facilities and encouraging healthy exercise
- Resources & Information Hub
 - Working with, and supporting, education and information providers
 - Providing nature information around the village
 - Connect with young people in our community and respond to their concerns
 - Construct a 'library' of information on environmental success stories and practical guidance
- Home Energy & Waste Management
 - Providing guidance on practical measures that lead to a reduction in the use of energy and increase carbon capture
 - Identifying grants and funding to reduce the impact of carbon (and other gas) emissions

- Identifying and coordinating initiatives that will minimise unnecessary waste and preserve our natural resources
- Identify and coordinate projects that help people adopt the principle of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink'

4. Group Structure

The group governance structure was agreed as follows:

- Working Group Coordinators (x5)
- Media Management
- Young Environmentalist
- Administrator (/Secretary)
- Lead Coordinator (/Chair)

5. Key Roles

Key roles were filled as follows. Volunteers are invited to fill remaining roles.

- Working Group Coordinators (x5) – *names to be confirmed*
- Media Management – *Dave Evans*
- Young Environmentalist – *to be confirmed*
- Administrator (/Secretary) – *Fi McQueen*
- Lead Coordinator (/Chair) – *Ian Upshall*

6. Review Progress to Date

A review of the progress achieved to date was summarised as follows:

- Approached PC for kick start funding, CIL money, Woodhill Bus stop, wildflowering, discussed areas of land that could be used for tree planting
- Approached VH about planting a hedge and looking after the copse
- To help with managing the orchard adjacent to the allotments
- Village groups contacted and invited to attend
- Hedgehog Survey
- Trevor and Jane Williams Open Day
- Contacted the Allotment Group
- Janice continues to liaise with Primary School, children will be contributing to the Environment Fair
- Environment Fair 16th October

7. Agreed Tasks to be Started

There was support to start some projects as soon as possible. The following projects were agreed:

- Environment Fair 16th October 2021 – educational, reliable accessible scientific information, solar panels, air source, ground source heating and information etc, reusable nappies, demonstration, identifying, apps, eco products stand ie compostable

poo bags. The Williams Hall has been booked for this event. All were invited to submit suggestions for other groups and organisations to be invited. **ACTION: All**

- Continue working with the Williams Hall Trustees to plant a hedge along the boundary of the village hall. **ACTION: Fi McQueen**
- Karen Housego volunteered to compile a series of 'useful tips' booklets starting with 'Tips for the House'. All were invited to send their contributions and ideas to Karen. **ACTION: All**
- There was support to establish a sub-group to understand better the challenges of improving our footpaths. Sarah Evens will contact interested individuals and organise a 'get-together'. **ACTION: Sarah Evans**

8. Communications

The following communications were raised:

- Trevor Williams provided feedback on the Hedgehog Survey results to date.
- Karen Housego suggested a series of booklets one on the home, garden and general and offered to coordinate it (see above).

9. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 19 August 2021 at 7pm at The Williams Hall.

10. Close