

### Minutes of the Meeting #9 on 20 April 2022

Attendees: Dave Evans, Sarah Evans, Dave Smith, Karen Housego, Polly Burns-Cox, Nicolette Williams, Jason Morgan, Alison Katte, Fi McQueen, Ian Upshall (10)

Apologies: Emma Arthurs, Andrew Boyle (2)

#### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

#### **2 Minutes of Meeting 8 (March 22) and Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

Review of Outstanding Actions:

|            |        |   |  |
|------------|--------|---|--|
| <b>8/6</b> | Ian U  | Write a user guide in collaboration with SERC and SWT.  | <b>In process.</b> This guide has yet to be completed. |
| <b>6/7</b> | Emma A | To consider how best SEG should promote a reduction of food waste and to report back at the next meeting    | <b>In process</b>                                      |
| <b>2/8</b> | Emma A | To bring forward suggestions on how we address food leftovers and menu management                           | <b>In process</b>                                      |
| <b>4/8</b> | Emma A | To report back to the SEG on an outline for raising the profile of single-use plastics at the Envirofair 22 | <b>In process</b>                                      |

#### **3 Two-Minute Work Group Reports**

- *Hedges & Trees*

Ian has been informed by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) that the grant relating to the village hall hedge planting has been authorised and is to be shortly paid. The amount is £242 and this will pay for the biodegradable membrane that was put in place.

- *Mobility & Transport*

Sarah Evans reported that the footpaths group have created some guides that have now been given to local holiday lets, and placed in HOTV shop. The group has been working on the allotment path, widening it and clearing some of the edges to make it more accessible. Some of the group undertook an Easter Sunday walk along the East Deane Way, and it was very successful and everyone enjoyed the day, seeing wildlife etc. The footpath guides are now online and on the website.

Collickshire Lane has been blocked by two fallen trees although one has now been removed. Enquiries will be made to determine if the other tree can be removed, but it will require significant effort.

The stile from Church Close to the allotment path was discussed. Ian has spoken to the Parish Council who are content for it to be removed to improve accessibility. However, this does increase the potential for bikes to be ridden at speed along the route. The general feeling was that the slope should be levelled off and the gate that the PC has already bought put in place.

Ian reported that one planter has been placed at the bus stop at Polkesfield, and a second one due is to be finished soon. This will be placed next to the Dark Lane bus stop. A resident at Polkesfield spoke to Polly and Ian and they were very positive about the initiative and have offered to look after it. If anyone has plants, they can donate please let us know.

The resident also highlighted some accessibility concerns at and around Polkesfield. Ian agreed to raise these with the Parish Council.

**Action 1/9: Ian to raise accessibility concerns (drop kerbs and path potholes) with the Parish Council.**

- *Home Energy & Waste*

Nothing to report

- *Information Hub*

Nothing to report

- *Biodiversity*

The work on The Spinney at the village hall continues. Over the summer period, general clearing will continue to encourage greater biodiversity. Signs are now in place to explain some of the new features. If anyone has some wriggly tin, please let Ian know – it will provide a great habitat, especially for slowworms.

*A SEG member has kindly sourced a corrugated iron panel which is now in place – thanks!*

#### **4 Envirofair 22**

- *Confirmed attendees*

Fi gave an overview of confirmed attendees – there are currently between 25 and 30. A spreadsheet is being routinely updated with details.

- *Tasks*

Raffle prizes: Fi asked for members to consider sourcing additional raffle prizes – we need between 6 and 10. Polly agreed to contact Monkton Elm and Greenshutters, Jason will contact Avery garden centre (Silk Mills Road, Taunton), Fi is contacting Serious Tissues and Waken, and Dave S will contact Wessex Water.

SEG stand: it is understood that our stand will include uses of plastic bottles (Emma), Future Projects and the 7Rs (Fi), Footpaths (Sarah) and Spinney & Hedge (Ian).

We will need volunteers to staff the stand throughout the day on a rota (Fi to email members).

- *Plan*

Fi has put together a plan of the village hall area showing the location of stands and organisations. We will need to source four 3m x 3m gazebos for outdoor activities. Fi will email members to see if we can borrow some.

There may be a requirement for more 6-foot tables. Alison said that the Baptist Church may be able to help with extra tables.

There was a discussion about the merits of a banner that can be used year after year to advertise the event. It was agreed that this should be pursued. Fi will investigate options (materials, size, cost). It may be possible to make a banner with access to the appropriate materials and skills.

Photo competition: needs promoting. If we do not receive sufficient photos, we will make up a display of members' photos – please email Fi with a suitable photo for use in a display. Dave E will also contact Neil Morgan and Paul Keneflick too.

- *Advertising*

Ian suggested we invite the Somerset County Gazette to run a feature in advance of the event. In addition, we will invite them to visit (as last year) at a suitable time after opening. Ian will also contact BBC Somerset Radio.

### **Action 2/9: Ian to contact SCG and BBC Somerset to encourage coverage of Envirofair 22**

Dave E to confirm dates for contributions to Stoke News and the Parish News.

It was agreed to place a poster/flyer in shop windows and other suitable outlets, including North Curry. Fi will put together a couple of posters advertising the event, appealing to different audiences.

*Two draft posters have been produced and sent to Polly and Nicolette for comment*

Dave E will put items on Facebook, Nextdoor, the website and noticeboard in the village. Dave asked what were the intended audiences and the objectives of the day. It was agreed that the event should be used to attract all ages both from our community and elsewhere. Ian agreed to send a copy of the 'Exhibitor Brief' to Dave E which sets out the objectives of the Envirofair.

## **5 Great Big Green Week**

We were made aware of this national event via our contacts in the 'Sustainable South Hams' network. Fi confirmed that the Great Big Green week will run between 24 September and 2 October 2022.

After discussion, it was agreed to hold any events organised by SEG on Saturday 24 September. It was further agreed that we would launch the event with The Big Wildflower Plant. Fi has researched and sourced a range of wild flower bulbs which we could plant at The Spinney and Wiley Road. Several thousand bulbs could be purchased and these may take several planting sessions during the week. A closing event was proposed – The Big Clothes Swap.

We can apply for up to £5000 funding for these events, which includes consumables, materials and equipment. It was agreed to proceed with the application process. Dave S subsequently agreed to front the application.

**Action 3/9: Fi to provide Dave S with details of the proposed events**

**Action 4/9: Dave S to compile the Great Big Green Week Funding Application**

Fi will book village hall inside and out for 24 September 2022

**Action 5/9: Fi to book the Village Hall for Saturday 24 September 2022 for Great Big Green Week events**

## **6 AOB**

Karen H reported that an online national survey, endorsed by Chris Packham, to better understand the scale of the use of single-use plastic will take place 16-22 May. This is being coordinated by Greenpeace. Nobody really knows how much plastic is used in the country and the data collected will help to form strategies. To register or apply for free pack online [How it works | The Big Plastic Count](#)

A related initiative is encouraging people to make fabric carrier bags and giving them to people to reduce plastic bag use. Further information can be found at [Morsbags.com](https://morsbags.com)

Dog toys: Karen needs old, clean denim jeans, t-shirts and old fleece to make dog toys for the Envirofair 22. Please contact her on [housego20@yahoo.com](mailto:housego20@yahoo.com)

## **7 Next Meetings**

- 18 May 2022, Parish Church Room, 7.30-9.30pm
- 15 June 2022, Parish Church Room, 7.30-9.30pm

Fiona McQueen

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21 April 2022