

## Stoke Environment Group

### Minutes of Meeting 12 on 13 July 2022

Attendees: Karen Housego, Jason Morgan, Fi McQueen, Ian Upshall, Nicolette Williams, Andrew Boyle, Helen Grant, Polly Burns-Cox, Emma Arthurs, Trevor Williams (10)

Apologies: Dave Evans, Sarah Evans, Dave Smith (3)

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

IU noted that the meeting would discuss two topics: the Envirofair and the Great Big Green Week. Drinks and nibbles will be available to help celebrate our first year!

#### **2 Great Big Green Week 24 September – 1 October 2022**

We have been successful in our application for a grant. Due to the popularity of this national event, our application for £2500 was reduced to £2000 – still a healthy pot of money that can be used to run events during the week.

It is proposed to run three events: the Big Planting Day, a talk entitled ‘Come and Learn how to save money on your Energy Bill’ by a representative of the Centre for Sustainable Energy and The Big Swap Day.

An outline of each event was discussed.

Th wildflower bulbs are to be sourced from ‘Wildnative Bulbs’ in Chard – native bluebells, wild daffodils, snowdrops, wood anemones. Crocus bulbs will be sourced from Lancaster and these will be planted under the silver birch trees at The Williams Hall (approx. £350).

A large event shelter, 4.5 x 4.5m, is to be purchased for this, and future events (approx. £300).

A range of tools are to be purchased including trowels, small spades, hand shears and secateurs, four of each (approx. £300).

A folding display board, SEG Flag, teardrop flag and banner to display and advertise the work of SEG (approx. £350).

The grant will cover the cost of hiring the village hall for all three events (approx. £270).

Publicity, printing etc. will be covered (approx. £180).

It is also hoped to purchase a thermal imaging camera (fits to a mobile phone) to help with future energy surveys (approx. £250).

SEG will fund the cost of refreshments for all events and any other outstanding costs from existing funds.

A representative from the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) has agreed come and give a talk during the GBGW, called ‘Come and learn how to save money on your energy bills’. This will be held on Wednesday 28 September from 1.30-2.30pm at the Village Hall (before

school pick up time). They are also able to give training for SEG members in the future. This is a fantastic opportunity especially in these challenging times of soaring energy prices. Watch this space!

### **3 SEG – Celebrating our first year!**

We now have 93 members which is a great achievement. We had aspired to 100 members by the end of our first year, so just short of the target.

*SEG has achieved in its first year:*

- Two EnviroFairs – raising awareness.
- Planted 480 whips in the new hedge, add two new stand alone trees at the village hall – creating both habitat and helping prevent run off.
- Made two planters from reclaimed wood, planted with flowers and put at two of our village bus stops.
- Working on the Spinney at the village hall – increasing biodiversity.
- Footpaths group – improving access, signage and producing walk guides.
- Supplied two bike racks at HOTV – promoting cycling, health and fitness.
- SEG has given talks to the Levellers and the WI.

*SEG has started the following projects:*

- Enquires into land for planting a community woodland.
- SEG has been approached by the PC to plant a hedge at the Playing Fields.

Huge well done to everyone! Supporters and helpers alike, it has taken all of us to work together to get so much done.

### **4 Envirofair22 Discussion over drinks and nibbles**

*Review – feedback, positives, things to do differently, ideas for EnviroFair 23 and ideas for future projects.*

Approximately 100 adults and 50 children attended. The event paid for itself which is a tremendous achievement.

Very positive feedback. Suggestions included regular announcements throughout the day of talks, activities etc and not to run it on the Glastonbury weekend. Another suggestion was for better advertising. Would anyone be willing to take on the advertising of SEG moving forward? If so, please contact Fi McQueen.

### **5 Projects going forward**

- Repair café
- Environmental Information Flyers A4
- Recycling Hub, eg blister packs and soft plastics
- Tool Hub – both DIY and kitchen
- Community Woodland Garden
- Car Share

- Open Gardens in the village – emphasis on sustainable practises. Several people have offered.
- Adopt the telephone box (working with the Parish Council)

## **5 EnviroFair 23**

Unanimously agreed to run an EnviroFair next year! To build upon went well and develop further activities and stands.

Date for EnviroFair 23 to be agreed by next meeting.

Please contact with all your ideas and suggestions for next year! Really helpful!

## **6 AOB**

Apple pressing. We have been offered an orchard load of apples, that we can turn into apple juice! Would need a scrapper (for squishing apples), hydro press, pasteuriser. It was discussed if we should purchase our own or to hire from CCA. IU to enquire availability of the CAA equipment. Given the popularity of juicing in the area, we would need to book a date for the event which we would open up to the community.

Next Meeting – 14 September 2022, Parish Church Rooms

Fiona McQueen

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