

Stoke Environment Group

Minutes of AGM and Meeting 14 on 12th October 2022

Attendees: Karen Housego, Dave Smith, Jason Morgan, Andrew Boyle, Polly Burns-Cox, Trevor Williams, Sarah Evans, Fi McQueen, Ian Upshall (9)

Apologies: Dave Evans, Nicolette Williams, Emma Arthurs, Ali Katt (4)

AGM

- 1 Voting with a simple show of hands of the attendees, for the three positions below for the next 12 months. The following was unanimously voted:
 - Lead coordinator (chairperson): Ian Upshall
 - Secretary: Fi McQueen
 - Finance Officer: Polly Burns-Cox

- 2 Review of first year (IU): It has been over a year, SEG started in July 2021. The group has achieved many positives in the past year including, the spinney, the hedge planting, the planters at the bus stops, the two EnviroFairs, the composting workshop, trees were given to the playing fields, CSE gave a talk on Energy Saving Costs, liaising with other groups Transition Atheleny, Fairshare Chedzoy and South Hams (Devon).

- 3 Annual financial summary (PBC): Finances are healthy. In the first year we had £3591 come in, including grants and donations and spent £2447, so a balance of £1144 at the end of the first year on 20/7/22.

Meeting

- 1 Welcome and Apologies

- 2 Review of Meeting 13 Minutes and Actions Arising
Update from the PFC about the nails on the playing fields: *The nails were the result of burning what was the remainder of the old pavilion, the bulk of it being stored for reuse by a group from Curload. Unfortunately the people who did the clear up weren't the normal volunteers and things got missed. Since then Neil has arranged for a local metal detectorist to go over the area, having done a first sweep they are continuing to sweep the area regularly to find anything else with the finds reducing to almost nothing. With regards to the bonfire this year it's going to be a smaller bonfire and they won't be building it until the day, will check it thoroughly before lighting the fire and will only be accepting wood with no nails etc.*

- 3 2 Minute Reviews of Projects (All)
- *Hedges & Trees – IU: SEG have offered to source trees and are waiting to hear from the PFC how many trees they would like. We will get advice on which types of trees will be suitable.*
 - *Mobility & Transport – SE: Footpaths going well and the local Footpaths Officer is very active and supportive. This is making a huge difference. Discussed safety issues on the footpath at the bottom of dark Lane. The PC is now involved.
Paul Kenefick is electrifying a tuk-tuk, and will be helping people in the village, shop deliveries, pub trips etc. Hopefully up and running by March 2023.*
 - *Home Energy & Waste – NW & KH: SEG are going to be having a information sheet in the Stoke News every quarter. See below.*
 - *Information Hub – See above. NW has kindly offered to take on advertising for SEG, which is very much appreciated. NW and L are working on SEG logo, so it is of a high enough quality for printing on a flag and banner.*
 - *Biodiversity – IU & TW: The Spinney is needing an autumn tidy. The apple trees need pruning at the allotments. SEG have been asked if we would like to look after a small piece of land which has a pond, to make a wildlife area. Discussed.*
- 4 Finance update
See above.
- 5 Great Big Green Week – Has been a learning experience. 20 people attended the ways to save money on Home Energy talk and feedback was positive. CSE were pleased to give the talk and with the numbers that attended. CSE are very happy to come and talk again to village groups. Please get in touch if you are interested. The Big Swap, was the first event of this kind in the village, and we have discussed how to increase engagement. The Swap is a way to recycle, many excellent items were available.
- *The Big Planting on Saturday 29th October from 10am.
Will be planting: 200 bluebells, 100 wood anemones, 200 snow drops in and around the Spinney. 90 crocus bulbs under the silver birch trees in the village hall grounds. 100 daffodils along the new fence in Willey Road.
Please come along and plant a bulb or three!*
- 6 Swap Shop/Community Resource Hub
- *NW - At the Village Hall Social Events meeting, there was unanimous support for the swap shop being run at the same time as the Village Breakfasts in the Julie Hector room. A lot of people attend the Village Breakfasts so there would be good footfall. Next breakfast 22 April 2023. Usually 3 breakfasts per year.*
 - *JM will look at PAT testing.*

- Community Resource Hub. NW and IU visited Old Mother Hubbard and discussed having a Resource Hub located there. Questions about how it can be run and costings for further discussion next meeting.
- 7 Newsletter (KH/NW) - *SEG are going to be having an information sheet in the Stoke News every quarter.* NW has emailed Jean House regarding writing a brief update on the electronic payment facilities now available at Dykes Farm to buy organic unpasteurised milk. KH has done an excellent draft which once agreed will have illustrations added.
- 8 Telephone project plan (KH/NW) - The area beside the telephone box was cleared last Sunday. Planting discussed. To be agreed in the next meeting. Glass to be made watertight, wood fitted along back wall, floor painted and then a recycling box for blister packs, date to be discussed. In the spring a glass painting project.
- 9 Community Woodland Garden. IU has made contact with the Church about SEG planting a Community Woodland Garden.
- After several attempts over the past 12-18 months, IU has had a telephone conversation with the Diocese department responsible for Glebelands. Their representative felt the best way forward was for SEG to work with the Church Land Agent (GTH). IU has been copied into an email to GTH suggesting a meeting. This is good progress but many obstacles remain.
- 10 CIL – SEG has been successful with CIL funding of £2500 from the PC. This funding is intended for projects that benefit the community, the environment and our battle against climate change.
- The second bid for £15,000 to be used to create a Community Woodland Garden was not successful. This was due mainly to the likelihood of acquiring suitable land within the timescale of CIL funding availability. However, the PC is keen to support the long term plan for a Community Woodland Garden for the village and it will become an item on future agendas.
- 11 AOB
- IU has been in contact with Ecocentre Southwest. This charity has been set up to offer free impartial advice on energy saving (very similar to CSE) in the community. The project has only recently kicked off and the managers are looking for communities to work with to refine data collection and targeted advice. There was some scepticism from members whether this was actually beneficial to our community. IU agreed to maintain contact but not to offer any partnership.

- NW – regarding the planned Envirofair on 3 June 2023, it was suggested we invite Louise Grinter to have a stall as she makes and sells sustainable home ware and gifts, e.g. fabric sandwich wrap. This was agreed.

Next Meeting – 23 November 2022 at Parish Church Room at 7.30pm. (This is an amended date following the meeting as a result of availability)

The December meeting will be held on 14 December 2022. It was suggested that we combine the meeting with a social gathering inviting all SEG helpers and supporters. With this in mind, it was suggested the meeting take place in the Royal Oak Function Room. IU to investigate availability with HOTV.

Fiona McQueen

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