

## Stoke Environment Group

### Minutes of Meeting 21 on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Attendees: Helen Grant, Polly Burns-Cox, Dave Smith, Karen Housego, Andrew Boyle, Trevor Williams, Nicolette Williams, Jason Morgan, Bryony Slaymaker, Fi McQueen (10)

Apologies: Dave Evans, Sarah Evans, Ian Upshall, Charlotte Sundquist, Matthew Slaymaker, Emma Arthurs (6)

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

#### 2 EnviroFair23 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June

- Discussed the rota and everyone flexible to help.
- JM explained that he can't source the materials for making bat boxes so will be making bird boxes again like last year, which were very successful.
- Discussed stands and exhibitors.
- Finances, all receipts to PB-C for payment. PB-C is keeping a record of costs against the budget.
- BBQ will be 12-2pm with meat and vegetarian options, with glass of squash and some locally sourced cider from Wady's at Middlezoy. Many thanks to NW, FH and EA.
- Photo competition update, 34 entries and will be sent to printers at the weekend ready for display and the winning photos will be framed.
- Resources, offers of gazebos for the event have been gratefully received.
- Hay bales – TW suggested contacting DT (which has now been done). Hoping will provide outside seating with blankets.
- Raffle was discussed and decided to group items together to make 10 prizes.
- Discount voucher from Seeds4bees to be given to every adult. Suggestion of a sticker for every child which KH is going to source.
  
- Discussed and agreed for DE to put his 'Help Hub' outside.
- SEG Web Site had 485 visits in the last month (up from about 40 before the Saturday posts started, and 41% up from last month) People have spent most time on the Envirofair/Recycle page. This is a tremendous increase. Many thanks to DE for all his hard work with communications and advertising, he is really making a difference.
- The long range weather forecast is 19° sun and cloud with 8mph wind. This would be perfect weather, so fingers crossed everyone!

### 3 AOB

- TW is picking up the wood this week, for the bench at the bottom of Dark Lane, which he is painting and replacing the wood.
- KH has finished the next edition of the R&R. NW is sourcing a cartoon for it before it goes out to the printers.
- KH discussed making the telephone box watertight. Ideas for uses for the phone box, suggestions so far included an SEG notice board, books, art installation, recycled items, geo cache (treasure hunt), dog poo bags and a recycling hub for hard to recycle items e.g. blister packs. KH and JM are looking at plan for inside with possibly shelves and a notice board.
- JM explained that a living roof on the Dark Lane Bus stop is not possible because of its design. JM gave feedback about refurbishing the bus stop to include a central panel with slots for A4 posters, ensuring clear panels to ensure good visibility. KH discussed painting the bus stop.
- BS Wildlife pond, an alternative to a wildlife pond is to plant the demonstration pond with flowers.
- SEG has been contacted about looking after the small orchard by the allotments. JM to speak to PC for agreement. Suggestions include raised bed for herbs, wild bulb planting, mowed pathway (thanks to JM), planting some hedge plants and looking after the orchard for the community.
- NW & PB-C will be planting up the planters at the Dark Lane and Polkesfield bus stops in the next couple of weeks.
- Discussed a community hub.

SEG had a stand at both the Coronation fete and also the Hillcrest Open Gardens, which were both very successful.

A massive thank you to everyone for all your efforts and hard work getting things ready for not only the EnviroFair23 but all the other projects that are currently underway.

Hoping to see you all on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, please come along with your friends and families.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at The Café, HOTV at 7.30pm.

Fiona McQueen

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May 2023