

Stoke Environment Group

Minutes of Meeting 22 on 14 June 2023

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

Apologies: Helen Grant, Andrew Boyle, Dave Smith, Bryony Slaymaker

1 Welcome and Apologies. The principal aim of the meeting was to review EnviroFair 23, share feedback and plan for events and projects.

2 **Review of EnviroFair – Saturday 3 June 2023**

- **Feedback was very positive from both exhibitors and visitors**

The number of visitors was up from approximately 80 last year to 150 this year. Many thanks to Dave Evans for the increase in posters around the village and social media advertising. This was a major contributor and is something we must repeat in the future.

Exhibitors found that engagement was keen from visitors, lots of interesting discussions held, charities reported recruitment of new members, and support and enthusiasm for craft, local interest and environmental stalls was high. Refreshments provided by BrewPlanet and the lunchtime offering of local beef wraps and BBQ veggieburgers accompanied by cider from Middlezoy company Wadeys was successful. Many exhibitors expressed interest in attending any future Envirofairs. In light of this:

- **The Steering Group agreed to go ahead with planning for an EnviroFair next year (Saturday 1st June 2024 t.b.c.) to include additional attractions and stalls.**

ACTION: All to suggest who to potentially invite to exhibit at EnviroFair '24

3 **Saturday 1st July BioBlitz - Village Hall 10.30 – 12.00:**

Learning to use Seek and iNaturalist apps. This is being run in conjunction with Somerset Wildlife Trust and Bryony has kindly organised the advertising via Somerset Wildlife Trust. The object of this

event is to find out how to properly use *Seek* and *iNaturalist* and to upload species data. We will be joined by Bryony, and also Botany expert Val Graham. It is hoped Leon de Bell of the Somerset Environmental Records Centre and Sarah Shuttleworth from North Curry - also a botanist and moth expert – will be able to attend. (Note: in the event neither Leon or Sarah could attend and sent their apologies).

The event will start and end at Stoke St Gregory village hall where we will learn all about two smart-phone apps '**Seek**' and '**iNaturalist**'. We will then head out on a nature walk and see how many species of plants (and maybe a few bugs and beasties) we can find, record them using the apps to contribute to our local community wildlife map and national data. Citizen Science in action!

Adults and young people (14+) are welcome to join expert botanist Val learning the basics of plant identification and recording skills. Younger families are invited to join Bryony (claiming not to be an expert botanist!) for a child-friendly recording session.

Advanced booking is not essential but would be much appreciated via <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/events/2023-07-01-community-wildlife-mapping-and-botany-blitz>

- 4 **Friday 14 July - Village Rounders 6pm – 9pm Village playing field**
SEG will have a stand; anyone interested in being involved please contact envirostoke@yahoo.com. (Note: this event was subsequently cancelled by the organisers.)

- 5 **Village allotment orchard area:** SEG have been approached to consider taking on stewardship of this area (the Parish Council will become legal owner owners of the land). Group keen to consider.

ACTION: Wednesday 28 June 7.30pm all welcome to meet at the Allotment orchard to have a recce and discuss those actions we should take.

Ian has contacted both the Allotment Group and the Parish Council to obtain written confirmation that both organisations are content for SEG

to take over full responsibility for the orchard. The Allotment Group has since given confirmation. SEG awaits a formal response from the PC.

- 6 **Village Hall hedge planting:** Reimagining the Levels have had a look at the progress of the hedge growing around the Village Hall, planted by SEG members, and advised the spiral protectors could now be removed.

ACTION: A Wednesday evening to be decided for anyone available to meet at the Village Hall to remove the sleeves and persistent weeds from the saplings.

- 7 **Willey Road Playing Fields phone box:** Waterproofing of the phone box is the next step. In the meantime, Karen is looking to put in a box for people to drop off their used medication blister packs which one of the group can then take to Superdrug to be recycled.

ACTION: Karen and Jason to meet up to discuss a plan for phone box waterproofing.

- 8 **Village Community Plan:** Further to the village plan survey results being collated and being published as mandates, there now needs a Delivery Group to be formed and an action plan to be developed.

ACTION: Please contact Danny James if you would like to be involved in the Community Plan Delivery Group.

- 9 **SEG Summer Newsletter** – Karen has produced a final draft of the SEG Summer newsletter. Looking to be distributed to all SEG households at the beginning of July.

- 10 **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Wednesday 12 July 2023, 7.30pm, in the garden (weather dependant) at The Royal Oak.