

# STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

<b>Council, Committee, Working Group</b>	Greener Staplehurst Group (GSG)
<b>Meeting Date Time &amp; Venue</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2023, 8pm West View, Maidstone Road.
<b>Report Author</b>	Natasha Thomas
<b>Item &amp; Title</b>	Meeting Minutes for the Meeting of GSG
<b>Resolution</b>	a) To approve the following work programme

## **Attendees:**

David Charge (DC), David George (DG), Jose Castro (JC), Martin Ralph (MR), Natasha Thomas, Paddy Riordan (PR)

## **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Approved by all in attendance.

### 1. **Apologies for Absence**

## **Shirley Wigzell, Jacqui Veitch and Stuart McPhee.**

Stuart has resigned from the group with immediate effect due to relocation; he has handed over his bed on Chestnut Avenue which the group will care for collectively until a lead is assigned.

### 2. **Review of Activity at GSG sites including plant requests and supplier discussion**

**Jubilee Field bed:** DG to review current state. PR offered to strim around the bed to enable access. The grounds person will also be contacted for support on watering/strimming as/or if required.

**Kebab Shop:** Priority bed for weekend work by the group. It will need clearing out, 4 bags of compost (NT to procure) along with horse manure (DC has a source) and drought resistant planting up along with grit to support weed suppression & water retention. We will repurpose some of the rose campion from the parade beds, Alpines & Erigeron will be researched and procured (NT)

**Spar Beds:** SW has worked hard to clear these and planted up a couple of shrubs from her personal green house. We will add in plants from those existing at the Parade beds and seek low growing & hardy, evergreen items if procuring additional items.

**Village signpost beds:** PR will strim around all beds. MR/NT to continue watering and maintenance.

**Supplier Discussions:** DG will speak to Frankie's on the 15/6 regarding setting up an account to enable shopping around for the best plants/price. NT to raise a request regarding Millbrook with the Clerk to understand the process. PR to speak to Growing Concern about potential partnership to grow items for the village –

# STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

**Action Item for Council:** For approval - Request for an amount of money from CIL pot, to go to Growing Concern to grow plants for village use. Figure to be decided by Council based on current budget of around £1000.00.

### 3. **Wimpey Field Management with Medway**

The group has agreed to invite the Medway Valley team/representative to the next GSG meeting, JC will dig out the tree planting documents. NT to initiate the invitation.

### 4. **Feedback on Bioblitz Event**

Review of the report was positive, outcomes and key findings are really positive reflection on the care and efforts in/around Staplehurst.

### 5. **Blue Bells from Bill**

Gratefully agreed to take Bill up on the bulbs he has available, unfortunately this relates only to the English variety available. Noted that only Native Blue Bells are to be planting due to official guidance for rural areas across England. Agreed that these will be planted in the Jeffrey Close meadow to expand the varieties of planting.

### 6. **Trees from the Payback Team**

Group agreed to take up 20 trees if possible. These will join previously planted area in the village. We will take up the team to support planting these, on a weekend which doesn't align to existing payback schedule.

**Action Item for Clerk:** Please confirm with the Payback team that we will take up their offer to the tune of 20 trees, we will support the planting of these but hope they will be able to assist too. Scheduling of this activity must take place on a weekend not already planned for a Payback visit.

### 7. **Update on Water Butt**

Group will need to re-request approval to purchase this item due to delays which have resulting in a lapse in approval.

PR & JC will prepare the site and fix the existing base for the water butts – 24th/25th June – NT & DC have offered paving slabs to support.

**Action Item for Council:** For approval – Purchase of a second water butt to support the collection of rain water for the beds across the village but especially at the Parade where water sources are not accessible.

### 8. **Payback Team support opportunity over June/July**

Weed at Parade – 1st July – if they have capacity, they will help this weekend/ clear the Kebab Shop bed to support replanting (17th June).

# STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

## 9. **Planned volunteer events/days – confirm days for June/July**

1st of July – 9am - working group – Kebab shop (Grit + alpines)

29th June – 7pm - Chestnut Avenue (tidy up and maintain)

## 10. **Update from Counsellors on dedications to Peter Spearink and John Grimwood**

**Action Item for Council:** Request for Approval to rename of Wimpey Field to the 'Peter Spearink Nature Reserve' at next council.

**Action item:** Request for approval to put plaque for Jon Grimwood at the bed where the tree chipping was done. We will ask his family to define the planting scheme/colours to include.

**Action item:** Request for approval for tree at Wimpey field for Jon Grimwood which his family and friends would like to plant.

## **Any Other Business**

### **a) Work Programme**

#### **Background**

During late 2022 the Greener Staplehurst Group put forward a work programme that was then agreed by Council in the 2023/24 budget, please see below;

QE II Remembrance Tree – up to £700 significant tree – species' to be confirmed and location agreed.

Replant 17 Planters – up to £1,000 – these are for all planters across Staplehurst managed by the GSG specifically the Kebab Shop, Spar, Signposts and Parade beds.

Chestnut Avenue Bed – up to £250 – variety of bulbs

Replacement Shrubs – up to £70 – Jubilee Field bed.

2 x large bags of compost up to £100 – general use

Bio blitz £500 – working with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership – summer event

**Total £2,620**

It is important the group does not exceed the agreed values and only uses the agreed funding for the agreed items.

If an item costs more than agreed by Council, then the group will have to report back to Council and seek permission for the extra expenditure.

- b) **Mowing at meadow** – Strim/Mow required. MR, DC and NT to agree timeframe and join up to perform activity required. DC will obtain wildflower cuttings to lay on it. NT to provide some Forget-me-not cuttings.
- c) **Funding opportunity** – Mental health – Social and in nature – PR has shared. NT to complete.
- d) **Woodchip** - from Neil for the parade – PR to request.

## 11. **Date of next meeting**

2nd Wednesday of every month – 12th of July – GSG meeting.

# STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL