

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting

Monday 22 August 2022

Minutes

Present:

David George (Chair)
Jose Castro
Bill McLaughlin
Mina McPhee
Stuart McPhee
Martin Ralph
Shirley Wigzell

Apologies:, David Charge, Paddy Riordan, Adele Sharp, Natasha Thomas

Minutes of previous meeting

Approved.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

- a. *Compost bin* – Building of the compost heap has been held up. The site is already beginning to grow over so it is important that the bin be built quickly. It was agreed that this site would not be given publicity on Facebook in order to discourage ‘dumping’ of green waste into it. There was agreement that 2 bins should be built although at least one is time critical. It was also agreed that the bins should be lined. GSG has some stock of suitable liner. **Action - JC to liaise with Men’s Shed build the compost bin.**
- b. *Hose and water butt* – these have still not been ordered although there is now agreement that 2 water butts should be purchased and that the hose should be at least 50m long. **Action – MM to liaise with Parish Clerk on the purchase.**
- c. *Wimpey Fields nature cameras* – these have still not been installed despite being an action for several months. **Action – DG to chase him for implementation. Also to check if PR has had the signs made.**

2. Poyntell Road Pond

MR reported that the pond still has water and that he put some frog spawn in. There was a discussion about how to maintain the site and MR indicated that it should be left shady. It is designated as a wildlife pond and must be treated as such. MR reported that a Scouts Day will be arranged in order to tidy up the site. If this day falls on a Saturday then village volunteers will be invited to help.

3. Beds and planting

Maddies bed ad herb bed – the recent dry weather and the poor soil have proved challenging for both beds; the suggestion was made that both beds be composted in order to retain moisture and also to add nutritional longer term. **Action – DG to purchase compost for spreading on the beds. Also to try to source well rotted manure (PR may be able to assist with the latter).**

Parade Beds – huge thanks to Hazel for single handedly weeding most of the other parade beds a few days ago. A query was raised about the brick wall at the Parade bed. This is the responsibility of MBC. **Action – PR to chase.**

Chestnut Avenue bed hedge – the hedge is severely overgrown. **Action – MM to request that Parish Clerk arrange for its cutting urgently.**

Chestnut Avenue bed – The question was raised about what kind of bed this should be as it is a hybrid at present and very difficult to maintain. The group was in general agreement that it should be a mix of cultivated and wild flowers but that it should also be reasonably easy to maintain and consist of plants that are drought resistant, given the changing climate. **Action - It was proposed that a separate sub-committee consider this outside of the main meeting. MM to convene.**

Planters – watering the planters is a constant challenge. It was suggested that a wheelie watering contraption be purchased. **Action – MM to research costs and options.**

4. Tree planting

DG reported that an application has been made to MBC for more saplings which can be planted around the village.

5. Any other business

Wimpey Fields – the group was informed that the Wimpey Fields review is in hand and will be undertaken soon. It was delayed following the change in clerks. **Action – MM will raise with the Parish Clerk.**

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 31st October.

MM

18 September 2022