

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting

Monday 19th April 2023

Minutes

Present:

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

Apologies:, David Charge

Minutes of previous meeting

Approved.

1. Coronation weekend

Monday 8th May has been set aside for community projects. A working party will tidy up the Jubilee Fields beds ready for Presentation day on Sunday 21st May. **Action: All – keep the date free to work at Jubilee Fields**

We still have saplings to plant (these are stored at DC's allotment). It was agreed that subject to Parish Council approving this trees would be planted at Jubilee Fields. **Action: Parish Clerk to put on next PC agenda.**

2. Dedications

It has been agreed that two beds at the Parade should be named after Peter Spearink and Jon Grimwood, along with the Wimpey Fields being renamed after Peter Spearink. **Action: Parish Clerk to put on next PC agenda.**

Action: Parish Clerk: new signage for Wimpey Fields, Borough Council to be notified, Name changes to be made at Land Registry.

3. Water butt and water sprayer

SM reported that replacement water butts for the damaged ones have now been ordered.

There was agreement that a water sprayer should be ordered in order to facilitate the watering of the village gateway planters. **Action: NT will explore options in different price ranges – looking at 8 litre capacity, with wheels.**

4. Plants

Thanks to DG for buying plants requested by the group. There was general agreement that the plants to be planted should be drought resistant.

5. Update on beds

Jeffrey Close Meadow – MR to plant ox-eye daisies and primroses. NT will assist.

Maddie's Herb Bed – there was an incident on 16th April when SW was at the bed. A bunch of young people were messing about with the water butt and ended up emptying it. GSG is taking this incident seriously.

Action: Parish Clerk to go through the footage on CCTV for the time period of Sunday 16th April from about 16.10 to 16.15 to see if those responsible can be identified.

Chestnut Avenue - SM requested more plants for the Chestnut Avenue bed as well as assistance to weed the bed. **Action: Thursday 27th April marked as evening weeding session between 5.00pm and 7.00pm – Turn up when you can.**

Wimpey Fields – there seems some confusion about what work is being carried out at Wimpey Fields by different groups of people. It is proposed that the Payback team undertake work there but there is no clarity about what needs to be done. **Action: Parish Clerk to advise on what needs doing, as per the WF management report and who is responsible for the work. JC to liaise with Parish Clerk so he can brief the Payback team.**

Clarification was sought about whether Bradley should continue to work at WF, to keep areas strimmed, for two hours a week. **Action: Parish Clerk to confirm to Bradley that the work should be done, under direction from DG.**

6. Any other business

MM – suggestion that volunteers should be notified of work dates, not only by Facebook but also by an Admin only WhatsApp Group. It was agreed that the WhatsApp group was a good idea. **Action: MM to set up.**

BM – highlighted that he would have native bluebell bulbs available in June for the group to plant around the village.

PR – reported that 8 half size allotments were now available at Dickens Gate. These would be offered to individuals already on the Parish Council list. The Parish Council would undertake management of these. It was agreed that more allotments were needed in the village.

PR – congratulated and reminded the group about all that has been achieved over the last 4 years. **Action: all to give GSG achievements more profile on the village FB pages.**

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 7th June 2023.

MM

26th April 2023