

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Environmental Action Working Group held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10th May 2023 in the Salmonsbury Room at the George Moore Community Centre

Those Present: J Wareing (Chair), Tom Constant, Steve Cotton, Amanda Davis, Ian Gayton, Bob Hadley, Jennifer Lanham (part), Leanne Launchbury, Andy Roberts, Sue Roberts

Apologies: Lynda Hicks

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and new members; Ian Gayton (Parks & Countryside management background) and Steve Cotton (our Village Warden) introduced themselves.

1. Bob Hadley was elected as Vice Chair of the Environmental Action Working Group.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Lynda Hicks and Jennifer Lanham (although Jennifer was able to join for the last part of the meeting).
3. The minutes from meetings held on 20th September 2022 and 16th March 2023 were approved as an accurate record.
4. Matters Arising:

a) Terms of Reference

Jennifer Lanham and Leanne Launchbury returned signed copies of Appendix 1 of the Terms of Reference to confirm their membership. Ian Gayton and Steve Cotton were given copies to sign and return.

b) Village Fresh Water Points

Steve Cotton will follow up with CDC regarding the introduction of a drinking water point outside the Public Lavatories on the High St adjacent to Rectory Lane. Listed building consent may be an issue.

ACTION SC

Bob Hadley brought to the group's attention a new water fountain point in Tewkesbury <https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/cheltenham-news/tewkesbury-town-centre-gets-drinking-8404548> Bob agreed to get in touch with Tewkesbury Borough Council and get details as this looks an attractive option for Bourton. Once we have a specification for what we want, Amanda Davis agreed to look into grant options.

ACTION BH

Andy Roberts agreed to attend the Victoria Hall AGM on 12th June to raise the possibility of installing a drinking water point at the Victoria Hall.

ACTION AR

Jon Wareing confirmed that an Expression of Interest had been completed with the Refill water bottle refilling scheme. (A reply has been received and tabled for discussion at the next VEC meeting.)

c) Community Composting Scheme

Steve Cotton circulated a Clean & Green Community Composting Starter Kit from CDC to the group. He shared that few schemes had started as yet but outlined the success factors from the South Cerney experience:

- 1. The site needs to be easily accessible*
- 2. We need volunteers*
- 3. We need to purchase a chipper (will need training and storage)*

CDC can offer a grant of £2k to kick-start the initiative.

It was agreed to understand more from the South Cerney experience and then to seek volunteers through the Bourton Browser, Horticultural Society and Bourton FB group.

ACTION JW

d) Vibrant Verges

Andy Roberts and Jennifer Lanham have mapped out 38 potential sites around the village for potential planting of bulbs and native species wild plants. Ian suggested the development of a Masterplan for this and agreed to work with Andy and Jennifer on producing this Masterplan.

ACTION IG, AR, JL

e) Carbon Reduction Plan & Community Energy Scheme

It was agreed to invite Paul Taylor to speak at the next meeting on the topic of rooftop solar panels to understand the potential of this approach as part of a community energy scheme. (We will include a slot at the beginning of the next meeting to progress this (18:05 – 18:25 6/6)

ACTION JL

f) Engagement with Schools

Given the challenges that emerged around the initial suggestion of a Walking Bus, it was agreed that we should be looking at soliciting ideas from, and engaging more closely with, both schools. Jon Wareing agreed to draft a letter to both Heads.

ACTION JW

g) Fresh Milk Dispensing Scheme

The fresh milk dispensing scheme at Greystones Farm has been installed and is believed to become operational in a matter of weeks. We will continue to report progress on this and the potential additional location as and when we have more definitive news.

h) Reducing packaging waste from High Street hospitality outlets

Jon Wareing reported that he had spoken with Olivier Bonte (Oli Bonny) about the potential challenge of additional fast food waste in the village from takeaway pizza boxes. Given the current (then) opening hours it was felt that takeaway pizzas will mostly be purchased by residents. Now that opening hours have been extended to start from 14:00 visitor consumption maybe an issue. Olivier suggested that he might consider a rental scheme approach with customers paying a refundable £1 on each box so that there is an incentive to return them to be disposed of by the restaurant. Jon agreed to follow up on this. Jon also agreed to engage with the Chip Shed.

ACTION JW

5. CDC's Funding Opportunities for Strategic Infrastructure Developments (Paper 1)

It was agreed that the group had no projects of maturity or scale to meet the requirements of the funding scheme within the timescale of this funding window (by 31st May).

6. Items to Note

- i. Amanda Davis requested that the next meeting agenda gives priority to other ideas that this group may consider so that there is a full wish list for prioritisation. This was agreed.

ACTION JW

- ii. Amanda Davis mentioned The Robin and another scheme, Community Connection, for on-demand public transport connecting rural communities. These schemes need to be publicised and used otherwise they will be withdrawn. Leanne Launchbury agreed to publicise these on the Bourton-on-the-Water Facebook Group.

ACTION LL

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next Environmental Action Working Group Meeting will be held at 18:00 on Tuesday 6th June 2023 in the Windrush Room, The George Moore Community Centre.

At 20:00 the meeting was closed in order not to overrun the allotted time.