

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting

Monday 9th May 2022

Minutes

Present:

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

Apologies:, David Charge

Minutes of previous meeting

Approved.

1. Update from previous meetings

- a. Budget – this year's budget is currently £1,900 of which £200 has been spent so far.
- b. Compost bin – this has been approved and someone now needs to construct the compost bin from pallets, which also need to be sourced. It may be that Holmleigh have pallets to give away. **Action: DG to ask DC if he is prepared to make them.**

2. Ecology Day update

LP reported that all is on target for the Ecology day on 14th May. There will be the opportunity for attendees to write 'Letters to the Earth'.

MR kindly offered a bird feeder for a free raffle.

DG reported that his contact from the RSPB will run a birds quiz for families to complete.

3. Beds and planting

DG indicated that he needed permission from the Parish Council for £200 to spend on more plants for the beds around the village. This will be put onto the PC meeting agenda.

There was a discussion around how the plants in the beds at the Parade can be watered. It was agreed that a hosepipe should be purchased for plugging in at the toilets although permission will be required from KCC, the landlord. **Action: MM to look at cost of hose.**

The suggestion was made that a second water butt be installed at library. **Action: JC to investigate costs.**

4. Purchase of augur

DG reported back on investigations. An augur can be bought for £300 but it would take £700 for a decent one. At this higher price it is not worth buying as the Group will not use it sufficiently often enough. **Action: DG to discuss with Andy and come to an agreement on discount price hiring of an augur (and other heavy machinery) as necessary.**

5. Beavers Gardening Evening

MM reported that the local Beavers group would be at the Chestnut Avenue bed on 11 May in order to learn more about gardening and community service. All members of the group were invited to attend. **Action: MM to host the event.**

6. Any other business

- a. *T-shirts* - it was agreed that the GSG T-shirts should be given to regular volunteers.
- b. *Wimpey Field Replacement trees* – a number of trees at Wimpey Fields have been damaged/vandalised and there was agreement that some of these should be replaced, particularly since at least one local resident has requested a replacement. Action: JC/PR to talk to Peter Spearink to obtain a list of all those who sponsored trees.
- c. SW queried plans for the Jubilee bed at the Village Centre – this was proposed earlier in the year. **Action: AS to do a plan and share with the rest of the group and the Community Payback Team so that resources can be organised to make that happen. AS to lead interested group members around the Village Centre area and explain her proposals.**

7. Date of next meeting

20 June 2022.

MM

20 June 2022