

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Environmental Action Working Group held at 6.30pm on Thursday 16th March 2023 in the Windrush Room at the George Moore Community Centre

Those Present: J Wareing (Chair), Amanda Davis, Bob Hadley, Lynda Hicks, Jennifer Lanham, Andy Roberts, Sue Roberts

Apologies : Tom Constant, Nick Hawke, Andy Lewis

1. Welcome. The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
2. Terms of Reference. Jennifer Lanham and Sue Roberts were asked to sign Appendix 1 of the Terms of Reference to confirm their membership. (Sue Roberts returned)
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February, 2023
4. Matters arising

a) Village Fresh Water Points

Lynda Hicks agreed to speak with Steve Cotton regarding the introduction of a drinking water point outside the Public Lavatories on the High St adjacent to Rectory Lane.

Action LH

The possibility of embracing the national sticker scheme for water bottle refilling was aired. A letter from this group to be written to the community.

Action JW

Andy Roberts agreed to attend the Victoria Hall Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21st March to explore a drinking water point at the Victoria Hall.

Action AR

b) Community Composting Scheme

An explanation of the Community Composting Scheme outlining the benefits, not least of which is the cost savings for residents. A call for volunteers to be involved in turning the composts will also be made. We need a pros and cons summary for the potential sites at Springvale and Cemetery Lane allotments. Headspace to be contacted to explore if they would like to be involved. Millie & Joe, from the Clean & Green Team to be invited to the next meeting to explain how they can assist the project.

Action JW

c) Vibrant Verges

The 'Bee Squared' approach was abandoned in favour of pursuing greater use of joined up corridors of green space planted with wild flowers. Again, we need an explanation of the 'why & what' (JW) once the sites have been identified which Andy & Jen agreed to do. Reducing costs in terms of village upkeep makes economic sense as well as making a significant contribution to biodiversity.

Action JL & AR

d) Carbon Reduction Plan & Community Energy Scheme

Following a wide ranging discussion on the merits and scope of a feasibility study, it was agreed in the first instance to explore the opportunities within the community for solar power. Mention was made of Southill Solar as a reference site. This is a community-owned solar farm that has been in operation since November 2016, it generates enough green energy to power 1,100 homes – most of the homes in Charlbury, Finstock & Fawler - for 25 years.

Jen agreed to invite an expert on solar, that she knows, to come to talk to the group at the next meeting.

Action JL

Exploring collaboration with Northleach on the carbon reduction plan remains an option.

e) Walking Bus

Nick Hawke had spoken with the Primary School to understand their interest in this project. The school wouldn't want to be involved in the organisation of the project but would happily send out information and help anyone who wants to take this on. Approximately 80-90% of the school's pupils are Bourton based. The group discussed the possibility of a campaign to encourage parents collecting their children to turn their car engines off to reduce pollution as well as saving their fuel.

f) Fresh Milk Dispensing Scheme

Fresh milk dispensing schemes will be starting up at Greystones Farm and potentially at a location more central to the village. We will communicate more details when these emerge.

g) Reducing packaging waste from High Street hospitality outlets

The group seek to reengage with Fast Food Outlets to explore options to reduce packaging waste. With a new outlet selling pizzas, there are concerns that this may add to the waste burden. Jon undertook to speak with Oli on this.

Action JW

5. Which organisations should we be liaising with?

- i. Cotswold National Landscape
- ii. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust/Greystones Farm...???

6. How do we test the community interest in suggestions that deliver on our purpose?

7. Items to Note

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next Environmental Action Working Group Meeting will be held at 18:30 on Wednesday 13th April 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.