

Stoke Environment Group

Minutes of Meeting 20 on 12th April 2023

The Royal Oak Café, Stoke St Gregory 7.30pm

Attendees: Andrew Boyle, Trevor Williams, Sarah Evans, Dave Evans, Fi McQueen, Ian Upshall, Polly Burns-Cox, Eric McLaughlin, Nicolette Williams, (9)

Apologies: Karen Housego, Dave Smith, Bryony Slaymaker, Matthew Slaymaker, Helen Grant

1 Welcome and Apologies – as above

2 Newsletter

The third edition is being distributed to approx. 540 households in the village.

- **Dave E offered to produce a map for allocating different patches for distribution for the next newsletter distribution.**

Eric McL noted a project that he had recently worked on – counting butterflies on one of the many Butterfly Transects in the area. It was agreed this project could be mentioned in the next Newsletter.

- **Karen H to Include details of the Butterfly Transect project in next Newsletter.**

3 Bank Holiday Monday 8th May Coronation Fete 2.00 – 5.00pm

The Fete is being coordinated by the Parish Council. SEG are having a stall, and the opportunity to advertise the EnviroFair, Open Garden at Hillcrest, and invite people to view parts of the Village Plan (if published).

The 8th May is national volunteering day. Two young people have offered to volunteer with SEG, one of them is a student who is keen to interview people from the village at the fete for her Strode College project. The other young person lives nearby and has close connections to the village. He is undertaking his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award challenge and would like to work with SEG for his 'public service' section.

Suggestions for volunteering activities for SEG include: Litter picking, activities for kids, weeding around the telephone box.

- **Ian to create a working plan.**
- **Dave is going to trial name badges for EnviroFair**

4 **Hillcrest Open Garden Saturday and Sunday 13/14th May**

SEG to attend on one day out of the two, and have a 2nd hand gardening book stall, back issue copies of *Kitchen Garden* Magazine and seeds available.

- **Ian to liaise with Charlotte and confirm which day attending.**
- **Fi will produce a staffing rota for the day – please help if you can.**

5 **EnviroFair 23 on Saturday 3rd June – Village Hall**

32 stalls confirmed. Not heard back yet from Wessex Water.

- **Nicolette to email Wessex Water.**

The Primary school are going to have a school Environment Day before 3rd June with the aim to feed into a stand at the EnviroFair.

- **Fi is creating a Rota for jobs on the day – please help if you can**

Raffle prizes: now have a number but a few more to come. No need for a PA system. Will use a megaphone for announcements outside.

Refreshments: This year won't be providing refreshments from the village hall kitchen. Kitchen hatches closed and kitchen for SEG's use and providing refreshments for exhibitors.

- Planet Brew have a stall – local company based in Curload, offering sustainably produced coffee, teas and soft-drink infusions.
- BBQ at lunchtime – meat and veggie.
- Local cider 'tasters' kindly provided by Wadey's Cider of Middlezoy.

6 **Website and Social Media**

Dave Evans has been emailing 'Environment on Saturday' bulletins to the wider SEG distribution list and will include a request for thinking about seedlings and plants for the Plant Table in advance to plant/pot up and bring along to the 3rd June EnviroFair.

The Saturday bulletins can also be found on the envirostoke.org website which has had an increase in hits recently.

- Bryony Slaymaker is proposing to hold a workshop on 1st July to demonstrate the use of the apps *iNaturalist* and *Seek*, which record sightings of wildlife, identify them, and can potentially feed into the database of the Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC).

It would be interesting to create a map of the local area with a record of sightings.

- North Curry are looking to start up an Environment Group; historically there has been in the past iterations of a joint environment group covering North Curry, Stoke St Gregory and Athelney. A number of people were in favour of working with a new NC group.

7 Village Community Plan

This was completed on 31 March and published soon. It will be printed for those who do not have access to online. The plan covers the next 3 to 5 years and brings together all of the community's aspirations. The PC have said they will support and the plan enables them to make representations for funding as it has been stated in the plan.

8 AOB

- Trevor updated on his activity with the Reimagining the Levels group – 2000 trees been planted at Pitney Farm, 150 trees at Overlands, 50 trees around the slurry lagoon at Meare Green Farm.
- Community Bench – Trevor has ordered the Sapele wood.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 17th May 2023, 7.30pm
The Café, The Royal Oak, Stoke St Gregory

envirostoke@yahoo.com
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