

Stoke Environment Group

Minutes of Meeting 13 on 14 September 2022

Attendees: Karen Housego, Dave Smith, Andrew Boyle, Polly Burns-Cox, Trevor Williams, Charlotte Sunquist, Fi McQueen, Ian Upshall (8)

Apologies: Dave Evans, Sarah Evans, Jason Morgan, Nicolette Williams, Helen Grant, Emma Arthurs (6)

- 1 Welcome and Apologies
 - 1 Minute Silence
- 2 Review of Meeting 12 Minutes and Actions Arising
No matters arising.
- 3 2 Minute Reviews of Projects

Hedges & Trees

The new hedge at the village hall, would benefit from Autumn management. If you are passing then please pull a weed or two anytime. We will organise a weeding morning if required.

There is still an interest to put some trees at the playing fields, along the cricket boundary. Waiting to hear more from the Playing Fields Committee.

Mobility & Transport

Footpaths (DS and CS) have been identified with the new local footpath warden and some repairs have been completed. CS said all parties are working really well together and the footpaths are the very best they ever have in 20 years. Huge thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work. There is a need for a strimmer, as current strimmer is broken down. SEG could buy a strimmer from funds. DS to research costs and report back.

IU helped widen and flatten the footpath at the bottom of Polkesfield. It is an improvement but could be better. PC will speak to the landowner and highways re safety, as it is private property.

SE has requested a bench to be sited near the river on private land and will be discussed further at the next meeting. Concerns were raised about flooding, EA access, livestock and accessibility.

Home Energy & Waste

See Community Resource Hub discussion below.

Information Hub

Stoke News comes out every 3 months. It was agreed to make an insert for each edition. To start with an A4, double-sided leaflet. To include recipes, suggestions and information. KH would like to help collate with NW. Will enable all villagers to have a copy and the information can be on our website too, having a page of its own.

Also see village telephone box below.

Biodiversity

The dry hedges at the Spinney are now teeming with life and have created super new habitat for creepy crawlies. Under the wriggly tin a very happy little mouse is making its home, snug and dry. No hedgehog sightings to date.

4 Great Big Green Week

- Wildflower Planting: Saturday 24th September 10-4pm. Discussed and agreed that the ground is too hard and dry for bulb planting. So the Big Planting is going to be postponed until 29th October 10-4pm. Lunch will be provided in the Committee room at the village hall.
- CSE Energy Saving Presentation: Wednesday 28th September 1.30pm–2.30pm at the village hall. It is in the day time, so will be accessible to different people who may not be able to attend an evening event.
- Great Big Swap: Saturday 1st October 10-4pm. Refreshments available.
- Administration and Reporting – take lots of photos.

5 Finance and Funding

- Community Infrastructure Levy – SEG has put in two bids, one for £2500 for projects around the village and a second bid of £15,000 for a community woodland project.

6 Forthcoming Projects

- Updated Task List – to be attached to minutes.
- Community Woodland Garden
SEG continues to make enquiries for land in the village that would be suitable to plant and create a Community Woodland with all the benefits that it would provide. Please see attached project outline.
- Community Resource Hub
Discussed somewhere to store tools and equipment for use by the community. Items to be ID'd, a register log to be kept, and lent out. Had discussions about safety, risk, location and using a shipping container in time. All ideas welcome. Lots of support and encouragement for similar projects in other rural communities. Suggestion is to trial it out, with keeping things in a few specific locations around the village. Another suggestion was for SEG to facilitate a Swap Shop on the website.

- Telephone Box
The PC has agreed for SEG to 'adopt' the telephone box. Suggestions include a notice board, shelf for leaflets etc and recycle boxes for blister packs and food film. Suggestion of glass painting, like mock stained glass, all agreed to do in the Spring.
- Spinney Autumn Management
The Spinney needs some Autumn management. Some clearing will be required for the Big Planting of bulbs.

AOB

Bonfire night is coming soon. It has been raised a concern about nails etc that is left from burning inappropriate materials on the playing fields for bonfire night. CS suggested using a strong magnet fixed to a pole to collect the nails. Works very effectively. Volunteers could go up the next day to help clear it up.

Next Meeting – 12 October 2022, 7.30pm at the Parish Church Room (FJM)

Fiona McQueen
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September 2022