

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Wednesday 19th January 2022 on Zoom [19:30 –20:55]

Chaired by Fergus

Minutes prepared by Judi Marshall

Present: Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Adrian Hill, Annabel Daldry, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Judi Marshall, Lily Paulson, Mary Dignan, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee) and Maggie Marriott

Apologies: Anne Cox (Trustee), Chris White and Kim Monahan,

1. Minutes of Tuesday 30th November 2021 meeting

The Minutes were approved. Proposed: Rosemary; Seconded: Judi

Fergus expressed thanks to the people who had been involved in the Sustainable Christmas event at St Michael's Church Hall to those who had decorated the Christmas tree at St. Saviour's Church.

2. Matters Arising from the 30th November 2021 Minutes

(a) Parking group (info)

Ben/ Judi

So far there is no Tetbury Town Council Group discussing parking.

Richard Norris, CDC Councillor for Tetbury with Upton Ward, has been conducting an audit of the town's 3 car parks: West St/Church St, The Chipping and The Railyard. This was prompted initially by difficulties reported by residents living on/ near West St. His aim is to present info to TTC to ensure the car parks are used efficiently. Richard appreciates this work crosses over with future messaging, such as car share, walking, riding etc. He suggested to Ben in early Dec 2021 that it might be appropriate to meet in the New Year, once he has a clearer picture.

Ben and Judi will continue to track what is happening.

It is not, however, yet apparent that this initiative is one that GT can make a contribution to.

On 10 Jan 2022 West St/ Church St carpark was raised at Cotswold District Council Cabinet.

https://cotswold.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/630391 Item 9

Proposed action in Tetbury is: to increase charges in the West St section of the carpark to deter people from parking there all day for only £2.50, and not to issue new season tickets until the ratio of permits to spaces drops below 50% (it is now 68%).

3. Tetbury Library wildflower and hedge project (info and discussion) - Annabel, Ben et al

Sophie Tallis at Tetbury Library has obtained permission to turn the land at the back of the library into a wildflower meadow and plant a wildlife hedge at the front of the library.

She has secured some funding.

The Woodland Trust will be sending 60 sapling hedging trees (Hazel, Hawthorn, Dog-Rose, Dogwood) between 28th Feb and 18th March for the front of the library.

Sophie is currently trying to raise funds or donations for peat free compost, local wildflower seeds (possibly from TTC – Ben as link), sharp sand (to mix with the seeds for sowing), gardening tools (including a watering can or two, trug/bucket, spade, fork, trowel, rake, gardening gloves etc), eco weed-suppressing membrane.

She is looking for volunteers to be involved.

Kim is in touch with Sophie is arranging a meeting.

Annabel, Ben, Rosemary and Maggie are all interested to be involved.

Annabel suggested that there could be similar projects elsewhere in Tetbury.
Last year Tetbury Town Council did 3 wild flower sites, and will do more this year.

ACTION

Kim to set up meeting with Sophie.

Ben to check re seeds – via Glorious Grasslands (AONB) and Colin at TTC.

Ben to ask the groundsman for info on TTC wild flower sites this year.

Several comments that bare root hedge planting and seed sowing need to happen soon – by Feb/ March ,
and March/ April respectively.

It was assumed that the Library will sort out public liability insurance for this activity.

Mary said that last year in her area there was some resistance to not mowing verges. Can try small
wildflower areas to encourage people.

Ben: TTC have mowed the verges, signalling that leaving other areas free is a deliberate process.

Rosemary: Some verges have to be mown for driver visibility/ safety.

4. Window Wanderland project (info and discussion) Anne

As Anne was unable to attend the meeting, Fergus gave information from an email she had sent.

A Tetbury Goods Shed initiative following similar projects to help connect people and transform streets
into magical outdoor galleries

<https://www.windowwanderland.com>

People are invited to put displays in their windows and gardens to light up the town, and take an evening
walk to view the results.

In Tetbury Fri 25th, Sat 26th and Sun 27th Feb 2022 – between 6 and 8pm

Christine Berry, on behalf of the Goods Shed, has asked if GT would like to be involved in some way, in
addition to doing our own windows.

Mary is happy to link with Christine to see what would be helpful.

ACTION

Mary to contact Christine Berry

This led into a discussion of:

How to encourage green streets (Rosemary via conversation with John Andrews)

Curiosity about how TTC will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Lily – TTC will plant 2 Jubilee trees.

Ideas included: creating a hedgehog highway around Tetbury (Maggie); suggesting a range of options (eg
bug boxes), for people on different roads to choose from (Ben); TTC could arrange a plaque of
participation (Rosemary). Annabel noted that permission is required to plant a tree in a public area.

Mary: it is timely to convene a project group for Paint the Town Green, as this is planned for June, & link
with TTC re their ideas for the Jubilee

ACTION

Mary to call a Paint the Town Green meeting in early February and liaise with TTC

5. Cookspool river bank (info and discussion) Anne

As Anne was unable to attend the meeting, Fergus gave information from an email she had sent.

Vicki Bolwell, Interim Executive Officer at TTC let Anne know that an ecological report has been made of
Cookspool due to the banks subsiding and the resident boundary slipping. The aim is to help it become a

bio-diverse habitat for flora and Fauna. TTC contacted Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to discuss possibilities for enhancing the area.

Vicki has secured funding from the Tesco Blue Token Initiative to help the project.

Vicki and GWT are meeting again and will develop a plan of action for the grounds team.

Vicki wanted to keep Greening Tetbury informed. They are open to suggestions from GT. If GT would like to be involved, please let her know.

People thought this a very good initiative.

ACTION

Fergus to respond to **Anne** and discuss how to take it forward

Mary asked if GT should apply for nomination as a Blue Token Initiative. People thought this a good idea.

ACTION

Mary to apply for GT to be nominated as a Tesco Blue Token Initiative

Rosemary asked what is happening to Magdalen Mead Well at Tesco's carpark

ACTION

Rosemary to view and ask Tesco what care is taken of Magdalen Mead Well

6. Tip of the Month – Rosemary

The tip of the month is about green computing. Simple advice re moderating usage/ impacts

There was a further discussion about where the Tip of the Month appears in the Tetbury Advertiser.

Ben reported that Judith Taylor from TTC will speak to Rosemary about this. The Tip will ordinarily appear on the TTC page, but there will not always be room for it there and sometimes it will appear on the Greening Tetbury page.

7. Health and Wellbeing volunteers (info)

Mary

TTC Mayor Anne Pearce had been in touch asking if GT would like to contribute to a Health and Wellbeing project, helping local people with their gardens.

After some discussion it was considered that:

This could be a mutually beneficial project for volunteers and those with gardens, but that GT's offer of involvement should be limited to helping advise anyone who wanted to wild their garden, as this would be congruent with GT's aims as an environmental charity.

ACTION

Mary has already told Anne Pearce that this was likely to be GT's response.
To follow-up, if Mary thinks appropriate.

8. TTC Climate Strategy Group (info)

Ben

There had been a heated discussion about a suggested 20 mph speed limit. As this was not supported by all TTC members, TTC will wait to see if GCC promotes this.

TTC are open to changing their energy provider at the end of their current contract (Dec 2022) and to considering more environmentally friendly providers.

Composting: all TTC grass cuttings etc are composted at the Goods Shed

Tetbury in Bloom said they did much the same.

Community Fridge discussed

Trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – June

Gloucestershire Transport Survey, including public consultation on bus services

– **GT members are encouraged to participate**

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagemthq.com/bus-service-improvement-plan-survey>

This has been put on Instagram and Facebook
Judith Taylor suggested having a walking & cycling group, to progress better infrastructure around town

9. Any other business

a. Community Fridge and Freezer

Rosemary had attended the public meeting about the Fridge, along with Laura, the Co-op's eco warrior for the area. The Co-op have funded a shed to house the Fridge and Freezer. The latter has been donated by Jesse Smith, following their shop refit.

The scheme will operate on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the Fridge & Freezer will be accessible from late afternoon. The Co-op will provide surplus food on the day of expiry date. It is planned to link up with Tesco.

Volunteers are being sought to take the food from the Co-op to the fridge, allocate food to the Fridge or Freezer, publicise what is available, ensure the Fridge is maintained etc.

Rosemary asked if GT would like to provide volunteers to do this two days a month, if other organizations could also be involved in an initial launch phase. St Mary's Church is to be involved.

Questions raised:

How are they planning to advertise when there is food there?

How do people who work access the Fridge in the evenings?

Will the Fridge be supervised? There will be someone on-site in the Council Offices during day.

Might publicising the initiatives as a charity act done by GT and churches deter some potential users?

Could initial helpers get it going and step back and let the community run it?

ACTION

Lily to ask for volunteers on Instagram

Maggie to send to GT email

Mary will raise at St Michael's Church and see if they want to be involved

b. Biomass project in Reading to provide gas via green grass **Rosemary**

A Dale Vince initiative using grass harvested 4 times year and producing methane to be stored, taking advantage of storage facilities for gas.

John Andrews has suggested that local farmers are keen to be involved in green grass growing. Keen for someone to approach Dale Vince. Possible shareholder set up.

ACTION

Rosemary and Fergus, liaising with the GT Energy Group, to write to Dale Vince suggesting a local scheme near Tetbury.

c. **Rosemary expressed thanks to Maggie and Mary** for the Newsletter and other communications including contributions to the Advertiser.

Fergus added his thanks as the Newsletter helps him write Reports on GT activities.

10. Date of next meeting – Tues 8th March 2022