

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Tuesday 9th March 2021 on Zoom [19:30 –21:00]
Minutes prepared by Mary

Chaired by Fergus

Present: Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Anne Cox, Charlotte Rushton, Adrian Hill, Gracie Fickling, Kimberley Monahan, Judi Marshall, Mary Winsome, Chris White, Eleanor Lines, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Emmanuelle Paulson, Noel Sharp, Morgan Beeby, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee) Gary O'Connor (Councillor), Nikki Ind (Councillor)

Apologies: Sabrina Poole, Maggie Marriott

1. Minutes of 8th February 2021 meeting

Two corrections:

Item 3: Name: Robin Coates (surname misspelt)

Item 5.3 Under Plastics: Mary wrote to Sir GCB asking him to sign an early day motion to ban the export of plastics to non-OECD countries

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

2. Facebook page and Instagram (update) – Gracie and Lily

Gracie and Lily have met with Maggie. They have agreed to go ahead with the Instagram page.

Maggie and Gracie have written the rules. These have been approved by GT.

The Instagram pictures will be linked to the GT Facebook page.

Action

Gracie, Lily and Charlotte will approve content before it is posted.

If members wish to post things – send to Gracie

3. A separate sub-group? -Fergus

Fergus asked the group if they would like a separate sub-group under the heading 'Wildlife'. There was a unanimous show of hands approving this suggestion.

Action

If you are interested in being part of the group email the GT website and it will be forwarded to Kim Monaghan

4. Wildlife Projects (litter, maps, projects, surveys, planting) Information and discussion- Kim

- a) Kim explained that Ben has already done some litter picking around the Goods Shed area. He has spoken to the Council who will supply bags and picking equipment. Council will take away the collected rubbish on a Monday if it is left by the bins.

Action

Anyone want to volunteer to do some picking? Contact Kim or Ben through the GT website

- b) Kim has linked with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) They have informed her that they have not planned any further work down near the old railway line and would suggest local action.
- c) The GWT are very keen to link with GT. They would like a Zoom meeting as they have several projects we could collaborate on.

Action

Zoom meeting with GWT to be arranged- Kim

- d) There are plans to develop maps of the area. The Feoffees and the Council are collaborating. They will be Magimaps or Digimaps which will be available to download. Once developed it would be possible to look at wildlife corridors.

Action

Kim is co-ordinating this. Awaiting response from Feoffees

- e) Kim was delighted with the response on fb to her request for wildlife spotting around Tetbury.
f) Areas for development in Tetbury – Cookspool. Kim is talking to Gary O’Conner who is leading on this
g) Mill Pond....awaiting response from Feoffees
h) There may be wildlife improvement grants which we could apply for with match funding
i) The overall aim would be to join up wildlife provision in Tetbury
j) Wildlife survey—Keith (Kim’s husband) is doing a bat survey in July. On the railway line mostly. Happy for interested people to come along. Mammal society.
k) Feoffees are looking to do more surveys and have contacted GWT
l) Kim’s pet idea -Plant your bit of town – in October half term for people to plant spring bulbs particularly in areas that do not have any at the moment.Link up the green areas and use the maps being developed . We need to work with Tetbury in Bloom.(Stephen Hirst’s wife)

Action

Proposal needs to go to TTC - Kim

Also link with Tetbury in Bloom

- m) Church Wildlife project. Rosemary explained that there is a wildlife survey, planned for June, of the graveyards in Tetbury. They are under the care of TTC. Ben has been in touch with the Wildlife World , Paul Sargent, who is keen to help GT, privately and professionally.

Question: Is there an issue putting up cameras? Gracie

Kim felt they could be put in unobtrusive areas and if any people were captured on camera the picture would be deleted.

Maybe think about ‘swift boxes’ being put up in the graveyards?

- n) There are plans for ongoing surveys year on year

Nikki Ind suggested that schools may be able to be involved post Covid.

Ben enquired of Charlotte whether they could use their Earth Protector Town logo on the wildlife projects.

Action

Charlotte will check and get back

5. Tip of the Month - Rosemary

Check tyre pressures – good tyre pressures help to reduce pollutants from tyres.

Rosemary explained that she puts the ideas together and gives them to Richard Lark, an associate member, he produces the posters. Thanks to Richard and to those who help to circulate the information.

Rosemary also informed the meeting that TTC are setting up a new website and all the tips will be displayed there. It is part of the Climate Strategy to put the tips on the website.

Judith Taylor, Councillor at TTC, is putting together the information for the website.

6. Climate Strategy - Feedback from Ben

- Westonbirt is putting in electrical charging points for staff and possibly for visitors.
- There is a conversation happening regarding a cycling route on quiet roads from Tetbury to the Arboretum.
- Tesco are planning to have charging points but that will be part of their national strategy.
- Co-cars -Ecar organisation. Anne will meet with them, this is a non-profit making organisation. We could apply for funding - they would set up the scheme.
- Strategy group met with Chris Crookall-Fallon, he advised about a new carbon calculator. It will be possible to go on the CDC website and look up the carbon calculator. The website is: impact-tool.org.uk
- Sustainable Transport Officers have been appointed for CDC
- There have also been Civic Pride Officers appointed who are taking responsibility for :
 - Litter
 - Fly Tipping
 - Dog poo

There is a fly tipping report tool on the CDC website

- Judith Taylor, Councillor is particularly pleased as her anti idling campaign is going to be backed by CDC as part of the strategy.
- Ben advised that there is some application for development at Worwell Farm –watch this space.
- Lily raised the question of Vegware (www.vegware.com/uk) and whether it is compostable? She said that it can only be composted in an industrial in-vessel composter and there is none in the area. Ben feels no business has really looked into the compostable side of their vegware and disposable cups etc.
- Many businesses are investing in their commodities but the disposal or composting has not been explored.

Action

Gracie suggested we might make some suggestions to local businesses on these issues

7. Tree Protection Orders – Ben

Encourage people to look at their favourite tree, check to see if they have a tree protection order: My.cotswold.gov.uk/med.aspx (TPO's are under Planning Environment on the left-hand side).

8. Google Docs – Ben

In order to use google docs you have to have a google account. Ben set this up as a means of everyone who wished to being able to share their email address with other members of GT. It is secure.

However it is not working and people are not using it.

Action

To discuss with Maggie to see if we can make it work for members who wish to share.

9. Updates from groups

Energy – Rosemary reported that due to Covid they have not met with the school . However the school governors are keen to explore a project , this is in its early stages and will focus on insulation first. An Energy Consultant – Matt Fulford offered to help the school.

Food: Maggie and Emmanuel are discussing a seed share/drop.

They suggest the Library may be a good place for distribution (when open!) or/and the Tourist Office.

Men in Sheds could also be invited to join in.

Plastics: Mary is leading on encouraging the retailers in the Town to have window displays in June representing the theme of Climate Change and living sustainably. Not only decorating their windows but also displaying a GT card stating what they are doing/ intending to do, to address the issue of Climate Change.

Gracie is leading on a litter pick (Covid permitting). For the period 28th May-6th June (half term) as part of Keep Britain Tidy. People who become involved will be encouraged to send in their photographs to the Greening Tetbury FB page and website.

There will be a £30 voucher prize for the winner at the Yellow Lighted Bookshop.

To advertise Gary suggested linking the TTC and GT websites.

Transport – Morgan enquired if there were any plans for a cycle route to Kemble?

Nikki explained there had been difficulty as there are so many landowners involved on the route. Stephen Hirst GCC and TTC Councillor is involved with the transport consultation which was looking at cycle routes.

Anne raised the issue of national wildlife corridors and wondered whether farmers could be encouraged to establish set aside corridors alongside footpaths for the use of wildlife, walkers and possibly cyclists.

Kim mentioned that the EU subsidies on set aside had ceased.

10. Doughnut Economics - Noel

Discussion to take place on the 16th of March (by Zoom) regarding this. Advertised widely.

Everyone is welcome to attend, there will be introductory presentations on some themes and then breakout rooms for discussion.

Ben said that some cities are looking at ideas from this book and trying to take them on board.

In some places people are creating from the ground up – Global Village idea.

Question: Is it being recorded? [If participants agree, the whole group sessions will be.] Gracie offered to help with editing.

11. Any other business

Fergus asked – should the newsletter go to everyone on the mailing list or just the members?

The former was agreed and also to put it on the GT website.

Chris suggested a GT book club where we could discuss relevant books e.g. Wilding. TBD next meeting

12. Date of next meeting –Tuesday 6th April AT 7.30