

Minutes for the Greening Tetbury meeting at Christ Church Monday 30th January

2023@7.30pm

Minutes taken by Judi Marshall.

Present:

Fergus Dignan, Mary Dignan, Adrian Hill, Chris White, Rosemary Bailey, Michael Bailey, Annabel Daldry, Dan Fletcher, Amanda Briggs, Chris Giles, Elizabeth Loudon, Robert Muir-Wood, Judi Marshall, Ben Jackson (later)

Apologies:

Gracie Fickling, Anne Cox, Nikki Ind, Joan Holdham, Jess Willows

Fergus welcomed the new people attending the meeting: Dan, Amanda, Chris (Giles), Elizabeth and Robert

1. The Minutes of the 6th December 2022 meeting were approved.

Proposed: Chris White Seconded: Mary

2. Matters arising from the Minutes:

- (a) Tetbury library wildflower project (info) Fergus

Planting behind the Library is nearly done, with bird and bat boxes installed. One more Saturday afternoon's work (approx. 4 hours) is required to complete the development, including finishing off the raised beds and planting wildflower seeds in them.

ACTION

Fergus to circulate a proposed date when he hears from Sophie Tallis, the Library's 'Green Champion'.

This prompted a discussion of other places in Tetbury that wildflower seeds could be planted: Jacob's Close; Tallboys' Walk (Tetbury Town Council - TTC have agreed to extend from the 2022 planting and put up signs); raised beds in Warns Court, Old Brewery Lane (permission has been given but attempts to plant there have not yet flourished)

ACTION / OPPORTUNITY

Would anyone like to develop planting at Warns Court? Would require removing some strong grasses, and ensuring watering in hot weather.

Signage is key. [Rosemary]

Eg: 'love our weeds, love our bees'

Need a good sign for dandelions, to help with acceptance.

Rosemary reported that St Mary's wildflower meadow was very bright and successful in 2022. It had been planted with due care about people's expectations of well-maintained graveyards. Will extend in 2023.

- (b) Seed swap/clothes swap (info/discuss) Mary

Seed swap will happen via a box outside the Library as in 2022. Sophie is happy for this to happen. **Action:** Mary will put out a message and guidance notes.

Chris Giles suggested a plant swap later in the Spring – perhaps mid-April to mid-May. Could be where the Community Fridge is behind the Council Offices.

ACTION

Rosemary to ask Colin the groundsman and Ian, who monitors the Fridge site, about this possibility.

Clothes swap. This year will be in Christ Church on Friday 17th February. People can drop off their contributions at 6pm. These will then be allocated tokens. Doors open at 7.30pm for swapping. Soft drinks and nibbles will be provided.

ACTION: Mary to continue organizing Seed swap and Clothes swap.
Rosemary will ask Dobbies what they do with out of date seed packets.

(c) Wild Towns project (info/discuss) Fergus

Various activities to enhance wildflower planting in Tetbury were discussed. These fit with the Wild Towns project and the Wildlife Trust's initiatives country-wide.

(d) New schemes for insulation (info) Fergus

Fergus has summarised information on new schemes for insulating properties, replacing boilers and other potential developments, including those for buildings with low energy efficiency. Fergus recommended the Energy Saving Trust as a helpful source of information. See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

ACTION: Fergus to post the summary on GT website

(e) An Environmental Books meeting

Chris White and Annabel asked about re-starting book meetings. Rosemary thought this best as an autumn activity.

3. Paint the Town Green Mary

Last year, Paint the Town Green had been overcommitted, so it will be done differently this year. There will be stalls on two Saturdays –the 1st and last in June. i.e 3rd and 24th.

Mary questioned whether the intensive activity of going round every business in town and asking about their commitments to sustainability really stimulates new action. Other possibilities could be considered: a clothes swap, a talk (although the July 2022 talk was cancelled due to low ticket sales), more specific and measurable actions.

Discussion included whether it would be possible:

For businesses to deliver one key thing during the month – eg no use of disposable cups?

To return to plastic-free initiatives – eg the picnic (Mary reminded that this had happened at the end of a month of single use plastic-reduction awareness and action);

To set up activities that give people measurable results. (Elizabeth suggested how motivating Park Run is – regular, 1st Sunday of the month.)

To have walk-to-town initiatives – eg from Long Furlong - Chris Giles

To have cycle-to-town initiatives – eg Saturday am monthly, people cycle from Brimscombe to Stroud together

A small working group is required to consider options and coordinate activities. Annabel volunteered to join. More volunteers are required.

ACTION/ OPPORTUNITY

Please volunteer to be on the Paint the Town Green working group – contact Mary

4. Decarbonising transport survey GCC Ben

Ben reported that a survey entitled: Reducing Transport Carbon Emissions, Reaching Net Zero by 2045 – Public Engagement Survey - is currently open at

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/journey-to-net-zero>

See *Take Survey* button top right. Open until 28 February 2023

People can fill this in as individuals. Ben will draft a Greening Tetbury reply and circulate for opinions.

ACTION: Ben to draft and consult on a GT reply to the survey

There was then a discussion about whether there are electric charging points in Tetbury (some at Tesco) and whether more will be installed. Ben said that more might be installed by District Council 2nd round funding (Tetbury was unsuccessful in the 1st round).

5. Tip of the Month Rosemary

Will be thinking ahead to prepare for a probably dry summer. Water butts etc.

6. Climate Strategy Group Ben/John

Ben had not attended the meeting - no news to relay.

7. Any other Business

- a. Count for Nature in St Marys churchyard – Saturday 10 June – 10am to 3pm

Rosemary outlined what will happen this year, building on the success of last year.

There will be stalls, including a plant stall.

Tetbury in Bloom will contribute.

Species types will be counted and entered into a national data base.

School children will do a mini-beasts count.

Experts: moss count, hedgehogs, bees (including a talk).

Dan volunteered as a birdwatcher.

An expert in grasses is required.

Rosemary is seeking a source of honey to sell. 2 apiarists were suggested – Ruth Quinlan by Elizabeth, Mick Peacey by Chris White.

There will also be a bat walk on Thursday 8th June.

Rosemary reported that the Church is considering putting a swift box on the tower.

b. GT website and information dissemination

Fergus suggested that the GT Website would benefit from review.

There was a brief discussion about how people know what is going on. The GT Newsletter has been discontinued. It used to bring together local and regional news on sustainability activities, and helped keep people informed of GT events and meetings.

Mary would be very happy for other people to write pieces for the monthly GT article in the Tetbury Advertiser.

ACTION: Fergus to contact Jess to discuss the GT website.
Please contact Mary if you would like to contribute to writing for the Advertiser.

c. 20 mile per hour speed limits

Ben arrived 'late' having attended TTC meeting on these. They had been approved unanimously. TTC can apply for speed limits to be approved. Glos County Council does not officially support 20 mile per hour limits, but will support 20 is Plenty campaigns. [Moreton-in-Marsh has a 20 mph limit through the town centre.]

d. 10-year vision?

Robert asked if GT or Tetbury has a 10-year vision of what Tetbury could look like? As activities at the moment seem incremental.

How would people know that they are approaching a climate-friendly town?

Could Tetbury become well-known for being one?

Could the Whacky races be rebranded as zero carbon races?

People thought these interesting questions. Previous discussions of longer-term possibilities had lapsed during Covid lockdowns. A workshop considering these issues could be valuable.

e. Coronation Day – Saturday 6th May 2023

Annabel wondered if GT might like to run activities for people who did not want to watch TV all day.

No-one knew if activities are planned in Tetbury for Coronation Day.

People noted that Monday May 8 2023 will be a 'Festival of volunteering'.

8. Date of next meeting – **Thursday 30 March 2023 at 7.30pm at Christ Church.**

Close: 9:15 pm