

Greening Tetbury

Meeting at St. Michael's Church Hall Tetbury on 25.09.2024

Present:

Rosemary and Michael Bailey, Gracie Fickling (Trustee), Ben Jackson (Trustee), Kevin Farnham, Jo Browne, Peter Martin, John Andrews (Trustee), Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Mary Dignan (minute recorder).

1. Apologies:

Annabel Daldry, Nikki Ind, Chris White, Sue Brown, Anne Cox, Dan Fletcher, David Brown, Adrian Hill, Liz Farnham.

2. Approval of Minutes: Proposed: Mary Dignan. Seconded: Jo Brown

3. Matters arising:

- (i) Wildlife corridors. Fergus is anxious about the lack of contact from one farm. Initially the response was very positive but now they have gone quiet. There was a question regarding who would pay for hedging, FD explained the Woodland Trust would pay 75%. Anne, Fergus and Mary attended the Farmers Cluster at Marshfield which was very well attended. Harry Long organises it. Talks particularly focused on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. One of the speakers was encouraging all farmers to apply for this government funding. The application forms are a bit daunting but worth it in the end.

The next meeting they will discuss hedge planting and laying. Suggestion made to run an IT session showing how to apply for funding.

- (ii) Wild Gardens Visits.

Four gardens and the Library were visited. Thanks to Anne for organising. Also to those who took part and to Jo and Martin for tea and cake. Gracie suggested we take photos for social media.

There was a lot of discussion re the Library. A resident of Close Gardens had mentioned that some people were going to raise a petition of concern regarding the appearance of the grounds around the library. It was agreed to discuss with Sophie (Library Green Champion) and do some 'tidying up' and strimming to show it is cared for. Sophie had shared a lot of photos demonstrating the variety of wildlife she had spotted in the garden since the 'rewilding'. Members were keen for these to be shared with the public. Either on a blog, the Advertiser, and/or on an A board by the Library. Maybe even have an exhibition and stickers in the window to celebrate and ask attendees at the Library to join 'what is being spotted in the garden?'

Ben suggested Sophie be approached to do a blog for social media.

Peter has spoken to the resident who actually offered to cut the grass and says if it is tidied they may not submit the petition.

- (iii) Community food growing project.

Feedback: Sue Pearce has had an initial meeting, only two residents attended. Some mention of raised beds and hedging. No further information at present.

4. Trees for Streets. (TFS)

Application for grant deadline this week. Gracie, Jo and Anne have been looking around Tetbury for suitable areas. GT are driving the initiative but there is a short space of time to raise the money. It may need matched funding.

TFS can help to set up crowd funding. Kevin commented that some of the land chosen may belong to the Feoffees. Jo will write to them.

Rosemary made the request that sustainable tree guards be used. Westonbirt supply them. Long term maintenance of the trees is the big issue.

Discussion ensued about crowd funding vs grant and how much GT would be prepared to contribute from the funds? Question: Do members agree to Trustees making this decision?

Kevin suggested finding the sites and then deciding the amount of money available.

5. The Great Big Green Day. Following the success of this year's day it was agreed to do a week next year for the Great Big Green Week. Planning meeting to happen in December as it will need a lot of preparation.

Evaluation of the EXPO day was that it was a good opportunity for networking.

6. Tip of the Month.

Fergus thanked Rosemary for continuing to do this. This month it is to do with Hedgehogs.

Peter has spotted a rare barberry moth in Tetbury and encouraged the planting of some Berberis shrubs. St. Mary's has agreed and also the town council has said that shrubs can be planted in Cookspool.

7. Climate Strategy Group

Ben: Next meeting later this month. It is usually a very small meeting but a way of connecting with the council. Judith Taylor is chair and also Nikki Ind attends.

Chris Cookall-Fallon and Andrew Doherty have left COTSWOLD CC

Next GT meeting: 27th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Christ Church Hall, The Chippings.