

## Minutes of Greening Tetbury Meeting

March 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 7.30pm at Christ Church Hall

Attendees: Pat Hodges, Adrian Hill, Dan Fletcher (Trustee and Treasurer), Liz Farnham (Mayor and Councillor), Kevin Farnham, Jo Brown, Fergus Dignan (Trustee and Chair), Mary Dignan (minute taker).

1. Apologies: Ben Jackson (Trustee), Anne Cox (Trustee), Rosemary Bailey (Trustee), Chris Giles, Dave Gardner, Nikki Ind, Gracie Fickling, Annabel Daldry, Chris White and Peter Martin.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.  
Proposed by Adrian Hill Seconded by Dan Fletcher.
3. Matters arising
  - i) Update on nature connectivity around Tetbury. Fergus explained that they are planning to make contact with landowners and farmers within the agreed radius of 3 kms around Tetbury. He and Anne have had a meeting with a farmer in Long Newton which was most helpful.

The farmer recommended contacting Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) for advice on grants available and help with grant applications.

Adrian advised that he had been to a talk by David Armstrong, The National Trust Stroud Landscape Project Delivery Manager. The NT wish to address biodiversity within their sites and to join with others who are addressing this in their areas. The main centre is the Ebworth Estate. The nearby Boundary Court Farm has also recently been given to the NT. They plan to rewild it. They are also rewilding part of Woodchester. Focusing on calcareous grasslands.

They have managed to link with 20 farmers to work collaboratively.

Magic maps indicates those farmers who are getting subsidies.

There was a suggestion to link with the Duchy at Highgrove.

- ii) Highfield Estate, Miller Homes.

Fergus advised the group that he had heard from David Gardiner, resident at Highfield, who said that the 'greening' issues around the estate are now being addressed. A request had previously been made for Greening Tetbury to support the residents with these issues and Fergus had written to Miller Homes to raise the concerns.

- iii) Dan Fletcher explained that he is now organising the monthly article for the Advertiser. He has allocated the contributors for the next 3 months and would be happy if anyone wished to contribute ideas to the article or even to write a column.

**Action:** Poster to be updated. MD

4. Liz Farnham advised about the consultation on the local plan. Closing date 24<sup>th</sup> of March. Comments by email or letter. One can request a copy of the plan or it could be viewed at CDC. Liz will also enquire if a copy could be available at TTC offices. She emphasised that this is a really important document as it will be the definitive plan for the area. It has 'greening' at its core. Renewable energy etc. It will say what Tetbury people want for Tetbury re planning etc. The old plan expires in 2031 and this will be the guide for planning applications until 2041. **Action:** Fergus and Dan agreed that the Trustees of GT will comment on the plan. Individuals are also encouraged to comment. **Action:** Liz will check who is responsible to ensure that builders fulfil their 'greening' plan.

What is the process, is it a civic responsibility?

5. Wild Gardens

This is Anne Cox's initiative. She wishes to have Open Wild Gardens on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Even 5 or 6 gardens would be enough.

There was lots of discussion and advice from those who have experience of conducting open gardens in the past. The over riding comment was 'it is a lot of work!' Jo wondered if it was a bit early in the year to see insects etc. in the gardens? September may be better for bees.

Would refreshments be provided? What about insurance?

Dan suggested that he pitches it in the Advertiser in April and see if there is interest.

6. Mary explained that she felt that 'Paint the Town Green' had run its course and it was time to stop it. It served its purpose in raising awareness of GT. So it was no longer needed for that. However, it may be possible to have a day in June around a sustainability theme. This would involve hopefully using the Market Hall upstairs on a weekend day in June. Dan advised that the 8-16<sup>th</sup> is the National 'Great Big Green Week' so it would be good if we were able to coordinate with that. Mary has approached the Feoffees to ask for permission to use the hall. Awaiting reply.

**Action:** MD

The plan would be to get involvement from Highgrove for a Meet, Make, Mend stall; a clothes swap; Repair shop; Men in sheds; Maybe local crafts; Maybe food representation by Ros or/and Fred. Lots of ideas.

Dan also suggested we invite a speaker in June. David Armstrong from the National Trust has been suggested.

**Action:** Fergus to invite David

7. Ben would like to recruit people to monitor what is in the local river. To do a count of life found and submit findings. If there are people interested in helping with this please email in to GT on: [greeningtetbury@gmail.org](mailto:greeningtetbury@gmail.org)
8. Ben would also like to monitor reptiles and Dormice on the bank behind the Goods Shed.  
**Action:** Ben to ask Landowners for permission to do this.
9. A reminder that the toothpaste tubes are now recyclable from Tesco. There is a box by the cashpoint.
10. Date of next meeting: date and venue TBC