

Minutes Of Greening Tetbury Meeting – Wednesday the 22nd May 2024

Prepared by Annabel Daldry

Apologies:

David Gardiner
Chris Giles
Jan Healy
Adrian Hill
Nikki Ind
Peter Martin
Robert Muir-Wood

Present:

Amanda Briggs
Jo Brown
Anne Cox
Annabel Daldry
Mary And Fergus Dignan
Liz And Kevin Farnham
Dan Fletcher
Rob Hardy
Sue Price

No comments regarding the last meeting. Approval of minutes proposed by Jo Brown and seconded by Annabel Daldry.

1. Update on wildlife corridors.

To help farmers use their land to sustain nature and provide wildlife corridors, Fergus suggested that as a charity, Greening Tetbury (GT) could use charity funds to pay for a first viewing by FWAG (Farmers and Wildlife Advisory Group), of the farm (cost: circa £330). The visit lasts about 3 hours. FWAG would then write a report, and if the farmer wished to proceed further, FWAG would conduct a feasibility study and complete a grant application on behalf of the farmer. It may also be possible for GT to apply for a grant for the initial visit by FWAG. A meeting will be held soon with those GT members who are involved with this project to discuss all this further.

2. Garden Visits

Anne suggested people could visit each other's gardens. September mooted as a good month for this. At the end of the visits we could have a picnic in one of the gardens. The idea is to see how people encourage nature by doing something - or just leaving to go wild – and to share tips and ideas.

3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Councils need to have one of these at County Council level – to support nature in and around towns. To recover lost habitat for wildlife and flowers as much as possible, and support biodiversity. Since the 1930's 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost. Birds like the Curlew are on edge of

extinction. Anne drew our attention to a map which shows how the land in our area is currently apportioned - as in wooded areas, rough areas left alone etc. A very good piece of work.

4. Green Spaces in Tetbury

Sue Price joined us on Wednesday and told us all about her great project planned for St Mary's Road. Sue is thinking about spaces where people can grow vegetables together, and hopefully this will lead to cooking and eating together. Near the flats on St Mary's Road is a piece of land vacant now that the garages have been demolished. Rob Hardy from Bromford Housing also joined us, and said Bromford would fund a part of the project for raised beds, tools etc. Rob said the land would have to be put back as it was if the project failed. A licence has to be issued, and he needs a group he can issue the licence to. So this could be a new group, or an amalgamation, and could include some involvement from Greening Tetbury.

Sue works at our local food bank and said 37% of people who use food banks have mental health issues, and obviously struggle with the cost of living. Growing food in a community project is good for mental health and helps financially.

5. Great Big Green Day

Mary reminded us that this is happening on Saturday the 15th June at the Market Hall – 10.30am to 3.00pm. There will be lots of things going on (please refer to the email from Fergus). Volunteers are needed to be on the stands. Jo, Fergus and myself, Annabel, volunteered. I'm happy to read stories to children whilst their parents look around.

6. Upcoming:

The Climate Strategy Group are meeting next week.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 24th July (was stated to be 25th July at the meeting but subsequently date changed because venue unavailable).

St Mary's Church event - Count On Nature - is on Saturday the 8th June. 10.30am to 3.00pm. Go up the spire for £5 – there will be a talk on moths after the moth traps have been opened at 10.30. And more.