

Greening Tetbury

Minutes

GT Meeting 27.11.24

Christ Church, Tetbury

1. Apologies: John Andrews; Liz Farnham; Ken Farnham; David Gardiner; Susan Brown, Rosemary Bailey

Present: Jo Brown; Anne Cox; Annabel Daltry; Fergus Dignan; Mary Dignan; Gracie Fickling; Dan Fletcher; Adrian Hill; Ben Jackson; Pam Johnson; Peter Martin; Philip Richardson.

2. Approval of Minutes 25.09.24 The minutes were approved by Jo and seconded by Gracie

3. Matters arising:

Tetbury Library - Fergus thanked those who, in the November Advertiser, had featured our response to the concerns about the wilding areas around the Tetbury library building. So far, mowing, weeding and pruning had taken place and some mulching. There had been no further complaints from Close Gardens residents.

4. Wildlife Corridors Project:

Unfortunately, the manager of the local estate we have been working with has had to pull out of the hedge and tree planting project we were planning because of pressure of work. This may be taken up again next winter.

GT is involved with our local Farming Cluster and one of its members Philip Hall, at Parks Farm near Tormarton, has asked for volunteers for hedge planting. As well as asking for volunteers from our own group Mary has informed Sherston. It was suggested Malmesbury, Chipping Sodbury and yate Green groups may also be interested. Cotswold wardens will be deciding this week whether to provide volunteers. Philip will be in touch when he has the saplings.

Action Point Mary will continue to try to inform local groups.

Ringfield Farm Nailsworth is asking for planting volunteers this Saturday. (30th November) Fergus will be there and Philip also volunteered.

Miller Homes- We have heard from David Gardiner, the Miller Homes resident we worked with last year, that environmental features in the company's planning application; hedge and tree planting; sowing wildflower areas and water dispersal, although started, have still not been completed. It was decided that Fergus and Anne would meet David to find out what the issues are, what they were asking of GT and, based on that, ask questions of Miller Homes, contact Cotswold District councillor, Ian Watson, who lives on the estate, and our MP Roz Savage. It was suggested that we ask Ian and Roz to be there when we meet David. It was

important to follow this up as there were two more current developments in Tetbury also promising environmental features. We needed however to check with David how public the residents want to go on this .

The Woodland Trust, via CDC was offering free Tree Packs to groups for planting projects. The packs would be dispatched in March of next year.

Action Point: Fergus get date for meeting with David

5. Trees for Streets. (TFS)

Gracie, Anne and Jo were working on this. Gracie was leading and they had identified areas in heavy traffic streets in Tetbury that could be sites for trees. Gracie had applied for an Air Quality Grant but had heard nothing back. She had also contacted Gloucestershire County Council who were running a Trees for Streets campaign and got no reply. We were working with Lizzie from the national Trees for Streets campaign. It was noted that there will be a new council after the GCC elections in may '25. There was some discussion about other possible sites for trees; Wisteria Road; Whitefields (where the developers had planted trees but not watered and most had died) and Feoffe land.

Action Points: Gracie continue to try with Lizzie to get a response from GCC

Jo will have a look at the Whitefields site

Annabel will contact Gracie

Mary will apply to Tesco for inclusion in their blue token scheme

6.Christmas Tree St Saviours

Anne offered to do our tree for the St Saviours Christmas Tree Festival with cuttings from her corkscrew willow and winter woodland wonderland themed decorations. The tree needs to be up for 1st December. She asked if anyone would like to set it up with her or add decorations in the theme. Annabel and Jo offered.

Action Points: Mary get hessian to Anne

Anne let Jo and Annabel know when she's going to put the tree up.

7. Tip of the Month. Idling It was agreed, as requested at the last Climate Strategy Group meeting, that we should ask Rosemary if she could feature idling in her tip of the month and that the topic would feature in our next Advertiser article. It was suggested we ask Rosemary to feature idling in a tip of the month series, highlighting one point per month

Action Point: Anne contact Rosemary; write feature for Advertiser

8. Climate Strategy Group

This is a town council group set up after the council agreed to declare a Climate Emergency. Anne and Ben attend along with town councillors Judith Taylor and Xyza Macutay-Malloch and Cotswold District Councillor (and CDC Chair) Nikki Ind. The meeting discussed the need to get training on environmental issues for town councillors to encourage them to take them into account when making decisions. It was suggested CD Councillor Mike MacKeown who had initiated the Somerford Keynes solar energy project and was heading up the Climate leadership Gloucestershire group be asked to deliver training. The national government was making it mandatory for councils at all levels to have a biodiversity policy that includes implementation and checking mechanisms. Cotswold District councillor Angus Jenkinson was working with local farmers and it might be useful for us to be in touch with him. Nikki had written to Roz Savage about her private members bill Climate and Nature (2nd reading due in January). The district council CEO had written to national government to pressurise companies to take effective action on sewage.

9. A.O.B

Clothes Swap: A very successful clothes swap was held on 25th November. The venue Christ Church worked very well.

Newsletter: Anne suggested, and offered to produce, a regular e mail newsletter to go to our supporters contacts list, for those of us who don't regularly visit social media. This was agreed. Current items of interest would be that the Long Table was now open in Cirencester and a refill shop is open in Tetbury.

Great Big Green Week: will take place 7th - 15th June 2025. We plan to hold events for the whole week. Some ideas are: Clothes Swap with Fashion Show; a foraging walk; a Talk (perhaps John Andrews would repeat his talk on Global Warming); Peter offered an event on Moths; St Mary's Count on Nature. Mary suggested a team meeting in December. Dan, Gracie and Anne volunteered for the team and Anne offered her house as a venue.

Action Point Mary find date for meeting

Leaflet: It was suggested we produce a leaflet describing our objectives and activities to be displayed in places like the Goods Shed.

Action Point: discuss at next Trustee meeting

10. Date of Next GT meeting Thursday 30th January 2025