

Apologies for meeting from
Jan Goffey
Mike Davies
Helen Cunningham
Charlotte Reynolds.

Minutes agreed from last meeting on 14th July

Meeting conducted via Zoom and members present were:-

Joy Tucker
Marion Pratt
Janet Palmer
Jill Bevis
David Botting-Paige
Mike Carpenter
Tony Leach Cllr Okehamton council.

The meeting started with Jill saying that she had read that 25% of black bin rubbish is food waste and wondered what could be done to educate people to recycle their food waste in the correct bins. She asked if there is an appointed climate change officer within WDBC who we could contact and ask for suggestions. Cllr Leach said he would get the name of this officer and said that it is one of the biggest single issue that the council faces. This waste in black bins will just get incinerated therefore not going to composting. He also said that education on recycling does tend to go in phases of when they can get to schools and groups to remind and educate them of this issue.

Nationally everyone throws out the equivalent of 111 items of plastic, but it was not stated at what frequency this was and the the trial of the 3 weekly black bin collection has not yet been properly analysed due to the pandemic. Results are hoped for in Sept/Oct time.

They are hopeful that this has made people recycle more of the waste instead of just throwing into black bags and having more bin bags hanging around their houses. David wondered if our group or the Parish council could put a report onto the website in the hope that parishioners would be more mindful of what they are discarding and where.

Item 4 the community garden has been deferred at present awaiting a report from Sadie. There have been tomato plants put in at the village hall which hopefully is not too late in the season and it appears there are various people helping out with the watering.

5) Peat free.

Jill has been looking into a lot of information about the use of peat for garden compost and that the government had aimed to make this peat free by 2020 and even though there has been a large campaign for this the target has been missed. The next planned for date is 2030 (which to me sounds too far off and needs action far sooner). It would be interesting to see how many of our local garden centers offer peat free compost and if not if they would consider stocking it. It was suggested that a section in the local flower show could be offered for produce grown peat free and prizes of peat free compost as a reward.

Jill said that 70% of water comes from upland peat areas and that they absorb and lock away carbon, so if these habits are continuously ravaged and excavated for compost and building areas the delicate balance of the planet will continue to decline.

The palm oil industry continuously decimates the peat bogs along with all the other damage it does.

We tend to get most of our horticultural peat from Ireland and the Baltic sea area which we are lead to believe are sustainable but it is reported to leak around 100 tonnes of carbon a year which is equivalent of 3500 cars a year being taken off the road.

80% of peat damage in England is caused by agriculture, drainage, industry and building and yet it does not appear to have any planning guidance attached to peat damage.

On that note Cllr Leach said that just on phase 2 of the housing at Romans field dug down 20 feet for the building of a new road into this housing site and had to back fill with 143,000 tonnes of hard core to tarmac on. The environmental agency or the planners were not interested in this and as he says this could in the future lead to severe flooding down in the Brightley road area as the land is not absorbing the water higher up.

6) Community hub. David and Mike are looking into the best way to set this up and whether it could be linked to Facebook

as a page, this is a work in progress at present. They feel that it needs centered on the village website separately so that it does not get diluted down by other issues in the village. I asked if it was worth putting it as a feature in the roundabout as this reaches those who do not use Facebook or the internet very often.

Also feedback would be welcome from the community as to what they think should be featured or what they would like to happen. The swap shop idea is one that could be explored future to either take place at people's driveways or village hall if they live too far out of the village. A throw back to the old days of bartering which could be turned into an event possibly

7) The Facebook page has been deferred to next meeting. Marion said she could set it up and then someone else could be the administrator for the page.

8) Car sharing. Charlotte was looking into this but she has currently had to leave the group. Joy asked Jill if her husband Robin would be interested in taking on this roll and taking it forward.

9) Litter. This has been an ongoing problem for the country as a whole and it seems an impossible task at times. As the parish council carry out a twice a year litter pick and tidy up it is being considered if this could be carried out with our groups involvement as well. Joy has asked myself, Janet along with her to be the leads on this issue which I am happy to do. Marion wondered if we could do a litter pick up the Belstone road and maybe take the litter back to the main site which generates the waste thrown out from cars and perhaps get the local newspaper to photograph the rubbish and highlight the problem. We could see if we can maybe put up litter signs coming into our area about not throwing rubbish.

We also need to get hold of litter grabbers and the rings that hold bags open to make litter picking easier and safer. Janet asked whether it would be possible to see if we

could get hold of grabbers that are used by the NHS for patients and that are no longer used and end up being disposed of, so we could effectively recycle them, but David said that they have to be deep cleaned and for this reason the NHS do not tend to reuse them. Seems such a waste

Joy has asked if all of us can do a small write up to bring to the meeting about our section we have taken on.

Date set for next meeting 8th Sept 7.30pm via Zoom