

Minutes of SCEnSus held via Zoom on 14 October 7.30pm

1. Welcome.

Joy Tucker

Marion Pratt

David Botting-Page

Veronica Matthews

Janet Palmer

Tony Leech

Robin and Jill Bevis

Nicky Scott and Yulie from Proper job Chagford.

2. Apologies.

Mike Davies

3. Approval of minutes and any other matters arising not covered below.

minutes confirmed from last meeting.

i. Feedback on leaflet.

General opinion from the group was that the leaflet sent out with the parish council newsletter was informative and well set out.

ii. Feedback on litter picking.

It was stated that since having the leaves cleared and hedges cut it was easier to see where litter had been thrown as so much gets trapped in the gutters and hedgerows and it is not always visible or easy to get at. Joy thanked everyone that was involved in the clean-up saying that 22 volunteers turned out in less than perfect conditions. David asked if we were still trying to get people involved in taking on specific areas of litter clearing. As yet nobody has come forward in respect of taking this on. Veronica asked if this would be covered by SCPC insurance if it was done on any other time outside of planned clean up days. The insurance would only cover organised events. The DCC should be responsible for doing A roads. Veronica said whether an organised day each month could be set aside, like the first Saturday each month throughout the year for anyone wishing to do it could organise a litter pick. Marion said she would check if this would be covered through the insurance.

iii.

Arrangements for site meeting at Village Hall regarding community planting.

Due to the newest Covid guidelines it was suggested that only those who were directly involved in this should meet to discuss the plan. Marion will check on the legality of it but believed it came under charity so would be able to go ahead.

4. Any amendments/additions to the plan.

i. Community garden, Helen and Sadie. Neither were at the meeting so no further new information at present.

ii. Peat free initiative. Jill says she is concerned how we are going to present the issue of cutting back on the use of peat and how to get this across to the community. Nicki Scott said that they have been campaigning for 30 years in the Chagford area to find a good alternative to peat compost and has been quite successful but unfortunately it still seems to be the norm in most garden centres. Jill asked if there had been a good take up for peat free initiatives in Chagford? Nicky said that due to large skips being placed in the car park in Chagford for general recycle waste to go

in it was found that a large amount of garden waste was being dumped instead so this is where their idea for composting grew from.

David said that it was still very difficult to see what is peat free as labelling can be unclear on bags of compost. Robin believes that the government has stated that it aims to ban peat by the year 2030. Nicky said that the majority of our peat comes from Ireland, Latvia and Lithuania.

Jill said that we should maybe reword the consequences of peat depletion to make people aware of the devastating effects on the environment.

We should look to getting in touch with companies that supply peat free compost and if a pallet was supplied to the community it could be done cheaper than ordering separately. This could be done on a pre order system. Also see if local suppliers ie Bow or Sampford Courtenay Station garden centre would be on board with the idea.

iii. Community hub. David has said that he is trying to set it up so that it is a simple one stop all under one heading so as not to confuse people. He wondered if we could have people as enablers with a contact number so that any queries could be answered on the site straight away or directed to the right place. We also need to reach out to the people that do not have or use computers. Robin asked if we knew how many in the parish did not have internet connection? it is thought that at least 50% do. David has asked if we can put in a proposal to see it in more detail. (It is currently something that Cllr Carpenter is undertaking with a survey in the parish to find out the current level of coverage)

iv. Car/Bike club sharing. Robin has said that due to the renewed current Covid restrictions it is very difficult to get this up and running and more people are relying on their cars rather than public transport. This also restricts the option of car sharing so more single occupant use. This is an ongoing initiative to carry forward for the future. We could however try and promote the many good places for walking and bike riding in our area. Going forward the car sharing would need to be an easy simple system to book and organise. Nicky said that in Chagford there had been 2 different types of car share schemes but in the end both failed. Veronica said we should try to build on the current conditions where people have not been out using cars or to think about how they can cut down on journeys or combine trips into one instead. It should be pointed out what the savings in petrol, tyres parking costs etc could add up to. Tony Leech said the DCC have noticed large savings in vehicle costs through having Zoom meetings. David said that we must remember that for some people the use of their cars is a lifeline and we do not want them to feel isolated by suggesting not to use their cars to get out and about.

v. Litter, Janet and Joy.

Veronica was concerned that by putting up poster reference littering, it in itself is adding to cluttering up especially if they come loose from where they are posted. Also do the people that drop litter bother to read them or pay any attention to them anyway. Should posters be limited to notice boards and enclosed spaces rather out on verges and hedges? Robin pointed out that litter picking is short lived and should we be contacting the county council to do more on this issue and possibly contact other councils to see what approach they are taking if any or try and get them on board.

vi. Monthly challenges Veronica. she was asked if she is happy with the layout of the monthly challenges. Veronica has asked if she can do some editing on them and resend the list through.

5. Review of footpaths etc within the parish. David and Gaynor. David said there has been a recent item on Radio 4 called "DON'T LOOSE YOU WAY" which is a

nationwide project started at the beginning of the year for members of the public to bring to the attention footpaths which have been left off maps or are inaccessible through neglect. There are 49,000 miles of footpaths in the UK of which the South West has 9,000 miles. The time limit of this challenge is 2025.

The parish council listing showed 25 possible paths in the area but was cut down to 11. It was asked if we have any of these old paths put forward for consideration and do the Parish council have any lists of these old paths. Marion said she would delve into the attic archive to see if there were. Wierford cross to Beer Hill was a main road into the parish and when did it close as such? Tony Leech said that proof of usage can go back for 50 years and do people still do that to keep paths open. Some farmers do not like the use of footpaths across their land and Devon is one of the worst counties for lost paths. Maybe we could organise walks and have a recording system to show they are still in use and maybe try and re-establish disused walks. Promote the walks with more leaflets or signage in village areas or on the plant store. Veronica voiced a very valid point on footpaths as she has paths over her land and is frustrated by the lack of common sense used by some who leave gates to fields containing livestock open and not sticking to the designated paths. David said that since the lockdown there has been a new breed of users out walking that have never before used these paths. There needs to be a greater level of education for people re the country code. Other problems arise with gates that are unable to be opened, poor signage as to where the path goes. Also some landowners are ploughing over paths so they are impassable or putting signs up warning of Bull in the field to discourage walkers on the land. Jill and Robin also voiced concerns of farm dogs which she has had go for her. Janet asked if these lost paths were reinstated the cost of them would need to be looked at and would it be at SCPC cost and if they would be worth it in the long run.

6. Funding. Not much going on with this at present as difficult to organise with Covid restrictions.

7. Website & Facebook page. The SCEnSus group does not always appear on the front page and it is felt that it really should be something that is kept in peoples current thoughts. As long as something is put onto the page regularly then it stays front page, this doesn't need to be new items just reinforce what's there already. David said that people could put photos forward on them completing any of the monthly challenges to keep the page current. The challenges are in the roundabout magazine.

8. Further action on any initiatives. Jan & Joy to put together a draft initiative and get it published for the design a litter campaign poster challenge open to all to go out on the website.

9. A O B. Marion said there had been an enquiry about keeping sheep on the village green to keep the grass short and be eco-friendly. The issue was felt that would this be suitable where children play re the mess, also a stock proof fence would need to be erected and the issue of insurance, thought not to be feasible at present.

Jill said that we would rather put wild flowers into the space on the green and perhaps list it with the Moor Meadows maps connecting wild spaces.

There was a question asked about when the monthly cut off point should be for items to go into the Roundabout mag and onto the website. Is there any way that it can be seen how many people have viewed the SCEnSus page and what is drawing attention.

Tony has said still no updated useful data on the 3 weekly black bag collections but green waste disposal is up with more takers on the green bag scheme.

Marion said that hopefully the Santa's grotto and church bizarre will be able to go ahead and there is a stall of clay baubles which are for sale to put on your tree at home.

10. Date of next meeting 8th Dec via zoom.