

Minutes, SCEnSus, 24 February 2021

1. Welcome.

Joy Tucker

Marion Pratt

Janet Palmer

Veronica Matthews

Jill Bevis

Phillip Collins

Bill Robertson

Jacqui Bourne (Bondleigh group)

2 Apologies. David Botting-Page

Robin Bevis, Tony Leech

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

No matters arising and minutes approved.

4. Ongoing initiatives.

i. Community garden: report on site meeting at village green 20th February. Joy said that she was happy that the meeting on Sunday morning was very constructive and thanked everyone that attended.

Jill asked about the idea that was put forward about an island of wild flowers and queried where it would go as concerned that several mentioned the fact that snakes have at times been seen in the proposed area. Veronica said that she was quite surprised that several sightings of Adders and grass snakes have been seen in the village and also a large amount of slow worms live in Jills garden. It was also decided that along the church wall would not be suitable as access is needed to the compost area. Jill also thought that an island may be hard to maintain and suggested whether it may not be the best way forward. Veronica wondered if another area for the wildflower patch would be along where the grass slopes away to the trees and this could also be a suitable place for the fruit trees to go which could carry along the line of the beech hedge and marry up with the other apple tree but not under the other trees so as to block out light to them. This area could be easier to leave so that it is not cut accidentally. Joy asked whether Veronica and Jill could do a preliminary sketch of what they have in mind for the green. Then this could be presented at the Q&A session on 16th March but it does not want it to look cut and dried with no input or ideas from any other member of the parish. Marion informed us that the annual inspection of the green and play equipment and we would have to consider if our plans may have implications on the review. They may mark the area down if they consider it unsuitable or dangerous as a result but does not want this to drive down anything we aim to achieve.

Publicity for launch in Roundabout. At present it is felt that we should wait until after the Q&A session and also the first stage of lockdown easing is in place on the 29th March.

SCPC Q&A session Zoom 16th March 7pm. This is being advertised through all the village platforms and hopefully will be well supported.

ii. Peat free initiative update. Jill has reported that all the compost that was ordered has sold out. Janet asked if there was plans to get more compost as she has not got round to wanting a couple of bags yet and others may feel the same awaiting better weather to get outside and wondered if plans to order more was in the pipeline.

Marion said that the Parish council had paid for the transportation cost and may be able to contribute towards this again. All the compost for the flower show potato buckets had been catered for for those entering the competition. Jill said it would be a good plan to take photos of the different buckets for future publicity and also delivery of bags of compost to purchaser to get the message out there what we are doing.

Joy mentioned Ruth Testa's email from North Tawton group re allowing areas to grow wild flowers and plants and even to do it in pots if no other space available to grow them. Veronica said she loves the ideas of these Bee Bombs for flowers and if a larger quantity was ordered whether we could get them cheaper.

Also some publicity in the Okey Links magazine and Okehampton times. Jill said that Country lanes in Okehampton are doing New Horizon peat free compost but the company does do peat extraction with their other products, Maybe the more people that buy peat free may get the message across that there is a greater desire for it. Marion said she will get back in contact with Dalefoot compost to see if they could do us any deals again.

iii. Community hub. As David was unable to be at the meeting it will be deferred until next months meeting. A prototype board is now in place in the Square.

iv. Litter/recycling, spring clean-up 20th March.

Risk assessment to be read out and done as before with those taking part to sign on the day. Also it will go out on the parish website for those not meeting at the hall to read and confirm they understand it.

Equipment. See if it can be borrowed again collected from Tavistock.

Crisp packet recycling. WDBC – no response so far. North Tawton have currently got an active packet recycle of packs and it may be worth linking in with them on this venture.

v. Monthly challenges. Veronica said that Marion is doing a wonderful job of putting the challenges onto the website and wondered if there has been much or any feedback if people are taking part in them. She wondered if there is any way to monitor how many times the challenges are viewed online. Marion said that she is linking with Julie to do some analysis of the site and also if it could go out as a general questioner for feedback. Jill asked if the peat free could be added to the upcoming challenges as they are linked together.

5. Priority post boxes update. The post box in the village centre is now a priority box but currently the one at Belstone Corner will remain the same until it is decided if the box will get moved across the road to the Beeches.

6. SCPC electricity contract update. Due to the lack of choice from green energy companies to supply electricity on a small scale to the toilets EDF were chosen as they were the best offer on a financial basis. This gives the SCPC a year to look into what options there are with the renovations. Phillip said it would need to be established what the loading capacity is for the toilets as to whether solar energy could be connected and what the cost of it would be.

7. Co-ordination of SCEnSus publicity/information. The emails that are coming through are good and Jill has been trying to link it all through Marion and Marion asked if the photos can be sent via attachments as it's easier to add to website.

8. Local collaboration. Joy has been linking in with other local groups ie Bondleigh and Chagford.

i. Ruth's email regarding joint activities. It will be good to link and join in with other groups when we are able to and try and do more educational ventures and

get people involved in their areas. Also the vicar Nick Weldon has been contacted reference allowing areas in North Tawton churchyard to be left uncut and whether our church wardens could be contacted to contact Rev Weldon if the same can be done at Sampford Courtenay, Honeychurch and Bondleigh

ii. Climate/Environmental page in Roundabout. Maybe a climate environmental page joining all our local groups together could go in Roundabout which can share ideas.

iii. Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). Jill asked what DALCs involvement is in regards to climate change and should they be trying to pull all the local council areas together. Marion said that they are more involved in the legal side of council business but there is a forum group via the WDBC. Joy said she has expressed an interest in joining this.

9. A O B. Veronica said that they had the local Wildlife trust rep Tom Parsons, come to their farm the other day and he is very excited about the local group. Marion asked if Veronica could ask him if he would be willing to join the Q&A session on the 16th.

Jacqui Bourne from Bondleigh joined our meeting and said they she is very interested in what we have going here, she said they only have a few in their group so far but are aiming to achieve local support from farming community to get involved with tree planting . They are also looking into a hydro electric plan with the river in the village. Marion said that Sampford Courtenay and Bondleigh do share the payment from the wind turbine at Honeychurch so already have a link in pulling together as community.

10. Date of next meeting Tuesday March 23rd 7.30pm zoom.