

Greener Staplehurst Group Meeting – 21 June 2021 (Zoom)

Present:

David George (Chair)
Jose Castro
David Charge
Mina McPhee
Stuart McPhee
Martin Ralph
Paddy Riordan
Adele Sharp
Richard Smith
Peter Spearink
Natasha Thomas

1. Apologies

Louise Pettifer
Jacqui Veitch
Jon Grimwood

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved.

3. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

a. *New Planters*

It was agreed that GSG funds should be used to buy the materials for the new planters.

Action: the Parish Council will be asked to agree to new planters and GSG funds will be released. PS to decide on the materials from which the new planters should be made. PS was given permission to spend upto £100.

b. *Visit to Wimpey Fields*

This visit is still outstanding. **Action: MM and SM to arrange.**

c. *Adoption of GSG sites*

This matter was raised again as there has been no development on it. It has been agreed that more villagers are needed to help look after the sites created. If wider communications are undertaken so that more villagers are informed about the sites, it is likely that more locations around the village will be adopted. It will also be possible to create a rota of works to help maintain the sites. Following the meeting JC has created a map of all the areas in the village where GSG is active. **Action: MM and DG to organise a communications push on FB.**

4. Parish Council report

PR provided a report on actions from the PC report for non-PC members of the group:

Wimpey Field – Taylor Wimpey have agreed that the gate to the Field can be widened. Work will be undertaken soon to get this done.

WF Fire – The Parish Council will not be claiming on insurance for damage at the Field. Parish Council will decide whether the benches will be left there.

No Mow May – this went well with many villagers taking part.

Staplehurst Bypass – this arose in relation to a conversation about speeding in the village. A bypass is not viable. It will tarmac huge swathes of the countryside (including Wimpey Field).

5. MBC meeting

DG reported back on his meeting with the MBC Parks officer who visited Staplehurst. The visit took in various sites (Stanley Close, Butcher Close, South Bank, Jeffrey Close). Trees can be planted in all of these areas although care will need to be taken in some of the sites in order to ensure that kids can still kick a football about (for example, in Butcher Close). MBS is supporting tree planting and the village can buy saplings at wholesale prices via MBC. The suggestion is that 18 month old saplings should be bought. The clarification was sought and given that these saplings will need to be planted immediately to be brought on and then transferred once they are bigger. PS kindly offered his field for bringing on the saplings which will need to be planted in October.

6. Herb bed improvements

At the time of the meeting half the herb bed had been weeded with plans to weed the rest. It was agreed that the bed needs paths or planters so that all of it can be accessed without plants being trampled. PS offered oak log slices which were accepted with thanks. **Action: PS to supply a dozen 4 inch high log slices for placement in the herb bed.**

7. Any other business

Areas not to be mowed – the point was made that any areas in the village planted with wildflowers should be registered with MBC to ensure that it is not mown.

8. Date of next meeting

26th July at 8.00pm

Mina McPhee

17 July 2021