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| **Greening Chiddingly Meeting** **Tuesday, 23 February 2023****Village Shop, Muddles Green****Notes**  |

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| **Attendees** |  |  |
| David Nash (Chair) | Mark Valleley (Secretary)  | Tina Letanka |
| Sheryl Rennison | Leycester Whewell | Mike Goss |
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| **Apologies** |
| Lucie Carnagan-Holt | Sally Ashby | Gail Giles |
| Cat Wood-Evans | Noel Hardy | Helen Denning |
| Peter Gunner  |  |  |

**Annual General Meeting**

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| **Item** | **Action** |
| 1. **Introduction from the Chair and apologies**
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| * 1. David Nash welcomed everybody to the meeting.
	2. The meeting would be split into two sections with the Annual General Meeting first followed by the regular monthly meeting.
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| 1. **Chair’s Report**
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| * 1. David gave his Chair’s report, a copy of which can be found in Annex 1
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| 1. **Treasurer’s Report**
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| * 1. Sheryl gave her Treasurer’s report. A summary of the current financial position of the group can be found in Annex 2.
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| 1. **Election of officers**
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| * 1. The following officers were elected unanimously:
* Chair – David Nash;
* Treasurer – Sheryl Rennison;
* Secretary – Mark Valleley.
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**Monthly meeting**

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| **Item** | **Action** |
| 1. **Notes of previous meeting**
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| * 1. Actions carried forward from last meeting were reviewed.
		1. David to create digital copy of map from village fete showing existing green activity in the village. Ongoing.
		2. Sheryl to submit text for ‘Think about where you invest’ text for website. Ongoing.
		3. Sally to write text for Future Farming section of Website, Ongoing.
		4. On liaison with Horticultural Society – Main agenda item see below
		5. Mark and Sheryl to arrange a date to go to Hove to set up bank account at Wave Community Bank. **Date Set Friday 24 March 2023**
 | **DN****SR****SA****MV/SR** |
| 1. **School Colouring Competition**
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| * 1. Mark gave an update on the colouring competition to help design a logo for the group. Mark had worked with Cat to design a two sided template for the colouring competition. A copy was circulated and agreed. Entry forms to be distributed by the school.
	2. Competition to run for three weeks with deadline being 31 March.
	3. Tina had arranged for Tony Mills, a local artist, to judge the competition.
	4. Prizes to be given for best design in four class groups. Plan to give all entrants a certificate.
	5. Discussion about suitable prizes with suggestions of bug hotels, bird boxes, wormeries or bird feeders. Mark to source prizes
	6. Plan to display all entries on the Art Wall in the Village Shop later in the year.

  | **MV** |
| 1. **Future Farming update**
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| * 1. Sheryl fed back on the meeting that Sally and Helen had had with Christine Meadows from the High Weald about the potential application for grant funding from the Sussex Lund Fund [www.lundtrust.org.uk/sussex-lund/](http://www.lundtrust.org.uk/sussex-lund/). Grants of up to £10,000 available.
	2. Next step was to identify four land owners along the Bull River catchment to participate, walk their land and identify suitable projects (leaky dams, tree planting, improve biodiversity). Nature walk could be established alongside river. Gail Giles has potential plan for ‘poetry on the post’ (DaDa-style poems to be place on posts along the route following a poetry workshop). Potential for additional sponsorship from SE Water.
	3. Funding application needs to be submitted by an affiliated group with a constitution. Greening Chiddingly will have these in place once bank account set up at the end of March.
	4. Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). Government had recently made an announcement about the scope of this programme. Current plan is to start with Lund grant application to seed a subsequent ELMS bid.
	5. Possibility of student projects through David’s contacts at the University of Brighton still under discussion.
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| 1. **Horticultural Society joint events**
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| * 1. David to approach Amy Clark at Sussex Wildlife Trust about potential talks.
	2. Seed Swap to take place outside Village Shop on Saturday 18 March using seeds that Sheryl had sourced form Thorpe Garden Centre in Horam. David, Sheryl and Tina to staff this.
 | **DN****DN/SR** |
| 1. **Planning for Summer Events**
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| * 1. David reminded the meeting of the dates of upcoming events:
* Church Fete – 10 June 2023
* Green weekend – 1 July 2023
* Tour de Chiddingly - 17 September 2023
	1. Mark to enter events on Parish News Google Calendar
	2. David and Sheryl to meet to do a washup on last year’s Green Weekend and start to plan for this year’s event
	3. Volunteers to be sought at next meeting to organise Greening Chiddingly presence at Village Fete on 10 June 2023
 | **MV****DN/SR****ALL** |
| 1. **A.O.B.**
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| 6.1 **Date and time of next meeting:** 19.30, Tuesday 28 March 2023 – Village Shop, Muddles Green |  |

**Annex 1: Greening Chiddingly Annual Report 2022-2023**

Thank you for coming along to the first AGM of the Greening Chiddingly group. For those of you who I've not been on the full journey of the group, I thought it might be helpful to put together a potted history of events.

It all started back in December 2021with an invitation from Noel Hardy for anyone interested in tackling the climate crisis to meet in the Back Bar of the Six Bells. I can’t remember exactly how many showed up (it was around a dozen), but there were 13 folk at the January follow-up, and many still attend meetings today.

During the December gathering it became clear that, while attendees wanted to be 'greener', they did not know how best they could change their lifestyle to reduce their carbon footprint. Folk also wanted to see more environmentally-focussed activities in the village, in the hope that this would stimulate community action.

In the early days, Dylan Walker was the chair, driving us to think about what we wanted to do and urging us to come up with a name, which we agreed on Thursday 24 March. We identified a website as a priority and then some events to announce our presence. The website development was initially driven by Stuart, who bought the Greening Chiddingly domain name and set up hosting. With help from various group members, notably Helen, Sally and Mark, I put together the web content, which was launched in May.

Our first step onto the scene in the village was at the church fete in May 2022 – a big thanks to Emily, Frankie and Sheryl for their help in designing our stall and decorating it with foliage. We hosted the Green Weekend in August, attracting 28 Jumble Trail stallholders and 8 Eco Open Houses around the village, and generating a real buzz – thank you in particular to Sheryl who was instrumental in driving the Jumble Trail, and to everyone who opened their homes to visitors.

After that came the Tour de Chiddingly in September, with fifty people taking part in a community bike ride around the parish. If you attended, I’m sure you’ll agree that it was quite a spectacle seeing so much lycra in the car park outside the village shop. A big thanks to Mark, Mike, Will, Tina and Sheryl for their help in advance of, and on, the day. I must also thank the Village Shop, who allowed us to piggy back onto their 10th anniversary celebrations.

In parallel with these events, we’ve seen the growth of the Future Farming group, who have now organised four meetings at the Taproom for farmers and landowners interested in restoring nature and boosting biodiversity. A big thanks to Sally, Helen Lucy, Gail and Sheryl, in particular, for this. I’m really looking forward to seeing how things progress this year.

None of these activities could have happened without the energy and good will of various group members. I’ve named a few but there are others behind the scenes who have delivered leaflets, put up signs, made banners, and generally spread the word. There are also several people who have donated financial support to get the group running – I could name names, but I don’t want to steal the thunder for Sheryl’s Treasurer’s Report.

Things have been quiet over the winter – mainly because we’ve all been exhausted – but there is plenty planned for 2023. Here’s to a bigger and even better year ahead for Greening Chiddingly.

David Nash, 22 February 2023

**Annex 2: Treasurer’s report**

Sheryl Rennison reported that the group had raised £213.00 over the course of 2022, which would be deposited in the group bank account as soon as it is set up. With the generous grant of £400.00 from the Parish Council, the group was in a sound financial position.

It was not possible to report on outgoings during the first year of the group. All of the activities had been funded by donations or in-kind support from group members. These included Stuart, Dylan, Frankie, Emily, Mark, David, Will and Sheryl.