

**Greening Chiddingly Meeting
Thursday 26 November 2024
Village Shop, Muddles Green**

Notes

Attendees

David Nash (Chair) Tina Letanka Helen Denning

Mark Valleley (Secretary) Gail Giles Sally Ashby

Peter Gunner

Apologies

Sue McHale Bob Harvey Sheryl Rennison
(Treasurer)

Item	Action
Actions from previous meeting	
<p>1. Actions from last meeting were reviewed</p> <p>1.1.1 School Colouring Competition – Mark to purchase prizes (nest boxes) and distribute to children on return from school holidays</p> <p>1.1.2 Presentation of Restoring Nature project on website – subgroup to be established to discuss this</p>	<p>MV</p> <p>DN/SA/GG</p>
2. Update on Restoring Nature Projects & Community Engagement Activity	
<p>2.1 Seven Phase II applications have been funded by the High Weald Nature & Community Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthbush Farm • Smithlands • Hale Farm • School Biodiversity Garden • Jubilee Field Pond reset project – Parish Council • Community Orchard wetland project – Parish Council • Project management, public engagement, community surveying <p>2.2 Sally gave an extensive update on Restoring Nature Project</p> <p>2.2.1 Meeting with Dr Helen Rotheray at Sussex University to review results of eDNA sampling and compare with Medway to try and establish context for our baseline survey results.</p>	

<p>2.2.2 SA and LCH presentation to school on eDNA monitoring had taken place to link in with the establishment of the biodiversity garden as a Phase 2 project.</p> <p>2.2.3 Representatives from newly established Alfriston Climate Crisis Group coming to meet in January to see nature restoration projects.</p> <p>2.2.4 Event to celebrate success of Phase 1 work to take place on 6 Dec.</p> <p>2.2.5 Outreach activities during Phase 2 to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elder’s story telling project • Knowledge-sharing event • Arts events • Bird Survey • Allsorts – Brighton-based group for LBGTQ+ 14-18 year olds – birding event with them to be scoped • Linking with other local groups – East Dene & Seven Sisters <p>2.3 Brainstorming event being planned for New Year to gather ideas for future project phases. Key challenges moving forward include future sources of funding, as cannot continue to rely on High Weald Community and Nature Fund as sole source of funding. Need to identify alternative sources of grant funding. How Restoring Nature project is organised will impact on this. More formal structure will be needed to apply for funding from some grant awarding bodies who require governance structures to be in place and more rigorous reporting of project progress and outcomes. Current status as a ‘community group’ does not allow for this. Could apply for funding jointly with other neighbouring groups. Decisions need to be made about these issues.</p> <p>2.4 DN gave a brief update on Phase 2 pond restoration projects in Community Orchard and rewilding area of Jubilee Field. Work will have to wait for better weather. Conservation volunteers to help with work with view to get local volunteers who could then undertake future work.</p> <p>2.5 Community Engagement activity Gail led a discussion about a potential Green Mapping exercise for the village, which could potentially be a wider group activity (i.e. not simply confined to the Restoring Nature project). Local community groups encouraged to participate in mapping exercise to show location of any sustainable activity in the village. This could include such things as the public footpath network, solar panel locations, sustainable businesses, restoring nature project locations etc. Mapping activity could form part of 2025 Green Weekend event. Possible outcome would be a map located outside village shop showing walking routes to locations. Establish village as a green destination for tourists and visitors. To be discussed further at next meeting.</p>	
<p>3. Wealden Climate Change Event</p>	
<p>3.1 Dave to attend Wealden Climate Change event in Uckfield on 3 December. Helen may attend if available.</p>	

<p>4. Planning for future events</p>	
<p>4.1 Calendar of events for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Swap • Attendance at Church Fete • Green Weekend • Tour de Chiddingly • Guided Bird Walk <p>4.2 Dates for events to be provisionally agreed at the January 2025 meeting.</p> <p>4.3 On <u>Seed Swap</u> – to take place on date of Horticultural Society Spring Show. Tina to establish date for this. As per previous years, stall to be located initially outside the village shop and then move to horticultural society event.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Green Weekend</u> – ideas were discussed to broaden scope of Green Jamboree event. Possibility of guided talks about some of the ongoing projects – Biodiversity Garden at the School, pond restoration project in Rewilding Area in Jubilee Field and possibly Community Orchard.</p> <p>4.5 Suggested we might invite other local groups to participate – e.g. Girl Guides, W.I., Horticultural Society, East Hoathly Preservation Society. Also invite neighbouring greening groups to have a presence.</p> <p>4.6 Date of event was discussed, as clashed this year with Village Market and Horticultural Society bus trip. Hold it in late August or early September instead of June?</p> <p>4.7 <u>Bird Survey</u> – a formal bird survey by Charlie Peverett has been funded as a Phase 2 Restoring Nature project. Follow up guided walks for villagers. Two guided bird walks with the school in early and late Spring.</p>	<p>TL</p>
<p>5. A.O.B.</p>	
<p>5.1. Confirmation that grant of £400 has been awarded by the Parish Council. Will be paid in April 2025.</p> <p>5.2. Annual General Meeting to take place as part of February meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025.</p> <p>5.3. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 27 February 2025 (AGM), 19.30, Village Shop, Muddles Green</p>	

2025 Meeting Dates: Tues 25 March, Tues 29 April, Tues 27 May, Tues 24 June, Tues 29 July, Tues 19 Aug, Tues 30 Sept, Tues 28 Oct, Tues 25 Nov.

