

Greening Chiddingly Meeting

19.30 – Tuesday 21 April 2026

Village Shop, Muddles Green

Notes

Attendees: Ryan Hannigan; Steve Tollhurst; Cliff Marchant; Sue Skan; Peter Gunner; Helen Denning; Mark Valleley (Secretary); Tina Letanka; David Nash (Chair); Gail Giles.

Apologies: Sue McHale.

1. Notes of previous meeting

1.1 The notes of the meeting held on 24 March 2026 were reviewed and agreed.

1.2 Jubilee Field – seating and pond area. Cliff Marchant provided an update on possible seating near the pond. Members discussed the benefits of providing a place to sit and enjoy the space, balanced against concerns regarding litter, anti-social behaviour and ongoing maintenance.

1.2.1 It was suggested that a temporary seating option could be trialled initially, subject to agreement from the Parish Council. Members also noted the importance of protecting wildlife habitats around the pond.

1.2.2 Sue Skan kindly offered to help monitor the area and assist with litter picking if seating is introduced.

Action: Cliff Marchant to make further enquiries regarding seating options.

1.3 Special Spaces digitisation project

1.3.1 David Nash and Gail Giles reported that progress had been made in reviewing options for digitising the material collected at the Special Spaces event.

Approximately 200 cards and related material will need to be scanned and transcribed.

1.3.2 A suitable online mapping platform has been identified (greenmap.org) which would allow material to be uploaded, and the resulting map embedded within the Greening Chiddingly website.

1.3.3 A draft job description has been prepared to recruit someone locally to undertake the scanning and transcription work, funded through the remaining grant budget.

Action: Mark Valleley to circulate job advert and job description.

2. Planning for visit by Lund Trust – 28 April 2026

2.1 The Chair outlined arrangements for the forthcoming visit by representatives of Lund Trust and the High Weald team. The visit will begin at Farley's before taking in the School Biodiversity Garden, Jubilee Field pond restoration works and leaky woody dam site at Burchetts farm.

2.2 The significance of the visit and the opportunity to demonstrate the range of projects delivered locally through grant support were noted.

2.3 Members available on the day agreed to attend where possible to help welcome visitors and explain projects.

Action: David Nash to make final arrangements with attendees.

3. Planning for future events

3.1 Church fete – Saturday 27 June 2026

3.1.1 It was agreed that Greening Chiddingly will again have a presence at the church fete. Members discussed using a similar format to previous years, including display boards and an interactive "What's in the Box?" game.

Action: David Nash to coordinate display material.

Action: Tina Letanka to source/paint the boxes for the "What's in the Box?" game.

3.2 Green Weekend / public engagement activity

3.2.1 Members reviewed previous Green Weekend formats and noted that they had required considerable effort relative to attendance.

3.2.2 Alternative approaches were discussed, focused on having a presence at larger established village events rather than running a standalone event. This could provide greater footfall while reducing organisational burden.

3.2.3 Potential options discussed included the Sussex Bonfire Society summer fayre and the Spirit of Chiddingly event later in the year. Helen Denning noted that she would be unable to make the proposed date for the summer fayre.

3.3 Members also discussed the possibility of repeating Open Farm visits, either later in the year or in spring 2027 when conditions may be more favourable. It was agreed that, as this would be a standalone event (i.e. separate from any replacement for the Green Jamboree), it would need some sort of 'hub' for visitors.

Action: Mark Valleley to make enquiries regarding the date of the Spirit of Chiddingly event.

Action: David Nash to explore interest in future Open Farm visits with farmers.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Parish Assembly

4.1.1 David Nash advised that he had been invited to give a short presentation at the Parish Assembly on Tuesday 26 May on recent Greening Chiddingly activity. Members welcomed the opportunity to raise awareness of the group's work.

4.2 Wealden Climate and Nature Network

4.2.1 David Nash reported back from a recent Wealden Climate and Nature Network event held in Uckfield and involving local environmental groups. The event had some useful ideas for potential group activities, including community thermal imaging cameras for household energy advice and citizen science water quality monitoring.

4.2.2 Members were supportive of exploring whether similar initiatives might be suitable for Chiddingly.

Action: David Nash to undertake further enquiries and report back.

4.3 School engagement / bug hotels

4.3.1 Members discussed the possibility of working with the school on larger bug hotel projects, potentially with some units for the school and some for Jubilee Field.

4.3.2 This was identified as a potential future engagement opportunity following further discussion.

5. Next meeting

19.30 – Tuesday 19 May 2026, Village Shop, Muddles Green.