

# NOTES GREENING WESTBOURNE

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**7:30 pm, Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Zoom Meeting**

	Topic	Notes	Action
1	Welcome, present & apologies	20 committee members and supporters were present. Apologies received from Nigel Street and Martin Yallop.	Info
2	Chairman's report	See Appendix summarising the year's activities & achievements.	Richard H
3	Treasurer's report	A summary of income and expenditure was circulated before the meeting and is to be placed on the Greening website.  Current total balance is £1621. At the April 2020 meeting it was decided to combine the Orchard and Greening funds.	John  Info
4	AGM 2019 minutes	Minutes were circulated prior to meeting for review.	Info
5	Greening Orchard Report	Circulated prior to meeting for review.	Info
6	Communications/ publicity report	Communication Officer's Report circulated prior to meeting.  Facebook page proving popular. Wildlife and River Ems content is striking a chord. Post about river pollution has generated strong local interest; not many comments but lots of shares.  Will continue with website for posting longer form info.  John explained that if content is strong on Facebook it generates interest organically. If there is a need to promote an event it's maybe worth £10 or £15 spend to push to non-member news feeds. A previous £15 promotion reached 3,000 people. John to request funds if / when needed.	Info
7	Election of officers	Nominations for the posts below were invited. None were received and existing officers agreed to continue in post. Chair GW: Richard Hitchcock Chair Orchard Group: Colin Carre Treasurer: Richard Munday Communications Officer: John Millard  Nominations for the post of secretary were invited and agreed following Martin stepping down. Secretary: Kathryn Slater	Info
8	Constitution	The May 2020 version of the constitution was circulated in advance of the meeting and approved at the AGM.	Info

		It was agreed that the original objective of tackling climate change through reducing the carbon footprint of the community is still the main aim, but it has broadened to take in other member interests (namely wildlife). The constitution is the basis for insurance, etc.	
9	Future plans: GW	<p>Group asked for updates on current projects and ideas for future activities. Points will be discussed further at future meetings:</p> <p>Wilding: The Return of Nature to a British Farm – what relevance, activities or aims can we take from the Knepp story? - Richard H</p> <p>Group visit to Knepp once the current restrictions over – Richard H</p> <p>Wild flower planting, potential to get school and scouts involved – Lyn and Julia</p> <p>Plan being made for wildflower planting in the orchard, seeds have been received, propose clearing area of grass but will require proper management to succeed. – Colin</p> <p>School bulb planting project proposed for the autumn – Julia</p> <p>Request local land owners support by giving over areas to rewilding?</p> <p>Currently looking for new areas to plant trees – Richard</p> <p>Plant Life is running a campaign about verge management, can GW link in with this? – Caroline to send link to Richard</p> <p>Look at ways to engage local decision-makers to have impact on the wildlife corridor project – Sandy</p> <p>Havant Thicket webinars – encouraged to attend and ask questions – Ann to share link with Richard</p> <p>Wildlife drawing comp for school to try and engage the local children – perhaps set up in autumn – Julia</p> <p>Create a questionnaire to capture local opinion on what changes experienced during the COVID-19 lockdown the community would like to hold on to (eg how can we maintain the tranquillity?). Kate to create questionnaire and share with Richard. John will support by loading into SurveyMonkey and create link on Facebook.</p> <p>John writing 300 words for Westbourne magazine – based on the Chairman's report.</p>	<p>Richard H</p> <p>Caroline</p> <p>Ann</p> <p>Kate</p> <p>John</p>
10	AOB	N/A	
11	Next meetings/ events	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 7:30 pm – Zoom – combined Greening Westbourne and Community Orchard meeting.	Info

## APPENDIX: Greening Westbourne AGM 2020 – Chairman's report

In the last 12 months, when the environment has begun to eclipse Brexit in terms of importance - only to suffer a temporary setback in the form of Covid-19 - Greening Westbourne has not been resting on its laurels. It is to be hoped that once Coronavirus is 'defeated' or at least under control, environmental issues might gather even more momentum than was already the case. Greening Westbourne is well placed to support that momentum.

The fact that environmental issues are gaining increasing resonance is reflected in the fact that attendance at our meetings has necessitated a change of venue. Invites to meetings now go out to 29 members/supporters and attendance regularly ranges from 12 to 17. Our general circulation list has also grown.

In early 2019, **Westbourne Wildlife Watch (WWW)** was launched. People in Westbourne were asked to report ALL wildlife they see, using an online site or app, so that a record is created on the biodiversity database consulted by anyone who intends to do anything that might change wildlife habitat. This is in support of Chichester District Council's proposed wildlife corridors joining the AONB (Chichester Harbour) and the South Downs, one of which roughly follows the rivers and streams through Westbourne. The project was relaunched in spring of this year

As supporters of Greening Westbourne will be aware, the River Ems is one of only 200 chalk streams in the world and, as such, needs to be protected. There is evidence of discharges into the river, and these are being investigated by the relevant authorities, the initiative/impetus for this having come from Greening Westbourne. We know we have water voles and are doing what we can to establish the presence of dormice.

In spring of this year, gaps along the mill stream which runs past Mill Meadows Farm were closed off in order to prevent dogs going in the water and thus disturbing water voles. This initiative was supported by the Parish Council and financed by John Barker, the landowner, Greening Westbourne and Westbourne Parish Council. Our thanks go to Westbourne scouts for helping with the work.

In the course of the past 12 months, two public talks were organised, the first given by Margaret Enstone, WSCC Senior Sustainability Officer, and the second by Sarah Hughes, CDC Wildlife officer. Both these talks - especially the second one - were well supported by members of the public and it is hoped to run more such talks in the future.

The **community orchard**, in Hampshire Farm Meadow, now has its full complement of 67 trees. See separate report from the Chair of the GWCO group.

In early January, we broke our own record by **recycling over 300 Christmas Trees**. This is now a popular and well-attended annual, family event with refreshments and a chance to swap any unwanted (re-wrapped) Christmas gifts for a mystery gift left by someone else. Chippings were deposited at Hampshire Farm Meadows and are used for the mulching of trees. Our thanks, once again, go to Michael Reed and his team for supporting the event and to members of the public for their generous donations.

Greening Westbourne, who work closely with the Parish Council's tree wardens, have been given responsibility for liaising with WSCC regarding the planting of new, mainly decorative trees on the grass verges in Homefield Road, Churcher Road, Crockford Road, Edgell Road and Ellesmere Orchard. There are many notable trees in the parish and it is hoped, in the future, to produce a limited-edition publication providing people with further information about these trees.

In spring of this year, three trees were planted in the playground behind Westbourne Primary School, children from the school assisting with the planting. Further efforts are to be made in the future to involve more young people in the parish in the activities of Greening Westbourne, working largely with the school and the scouts.

In early 2019, Greening Westbourne joined SECA: The South East Climate Alliance of over 30 environmental groups in Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex and Hampshire. We also continue to follow with interest the activities of Extinction Rebellion as well as CDC who, in 2019, declared a Climate Emergency. This is

consistent with GW's commitment to protecting the natural environment from harmful climate change and pollution.

We continue to report on and promote our activities in the local press, on our website and on Facebook. See separate report from the Communications Officer.

Thanks to everybody for their support in the last year and I hope the next year will continue to see Greening Westbourne and, by extension, the planet flourish.

RH. 15/05/20.