



**Minutes of the GHGW meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00 p.m. at The Methodist Church.**

**Present: John Ambrose (JA), Ed Basham (EB), Jo Hazlewood (JH), Simon Hooton (SH), Gerald Laws (GL), Matthew Shenton (MS) Kath Smith (KS) Suzanne Steer (SS) Brian Wales (BW)**

**Apologies: Mel Holmes (MH)**

1. **Matters/Actions** arising from the previous meetings not included in Agenda:  
There were no items outstanding
2. **Review of recent events:**
  - (a) Visit to Shotley Community Orchard: the group of us who visited were very impressed by the work done at Shotley to develop their community orchard. The initiative started with a councillor and a piece of council owned land. There was a lot of work to get the land suitable for planting as it had hitherto been wild and covered in brambles. It is now open to the community to enjoy and they have a good variety of fruit trees.. They have given us a lot of information which will be helpful should we every be in a position to develop our own community orchard. One key point was to get the consultation with the public right – they had had some difficulties from the public and some deliberate contamination of their water supply, but all this seems now to be resolved. After a discussion, it was agreed that we may need a campaign to engender enthusiasm about a similar project in Holbrook and work from the response.
  - (b) Nature Walk: 12 people attended the nature walk on 21<sup>st</sup> June which was enjoyed by all. The Dawn Chorus walk was also successful. It was agreed it would be good to repeat these next year, maybe scheduling the Nature Walk at a later time, nearer dusk and then combine it with a moth watch after the walk if possible.
  - (c) Climate awareness sessions at Holbrook Academy: SH had prepared two full morning sessions with the whole of Year 7 in two halves – the first was held in June and the follow up in July. Children's engagement in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session was not as good as the first and could have improved with a little more intervention from the staff present. However, the feedback from the geography teacher at the Academy who had organised the event with Simon was very complimentary and said she would very much like us to stay connected with a view to future collaborations. JH thanked SH for all the impressive work he had put in to prepare for this.

(d) Village Fete: JH reported that she and MH ran the stall at the Fete. We had borrowed some games from SH and had a “green tombola,” a prize for filling in the survey and vegan wraps as an alternative to the BBQ. Although there were only 7/8 wraps sold, the feedback was excellent. JA confirmed that next year’s fete will be a week later on 6<sup>th</sup> June. It was also suggested that GHGW could have a presence at other village Fetes and Fairs – in particular, Holbrook Academy Fete as there is an ongoing connection there.. SH reported that he has beeswax which he thought could be made into some wax wrapping for food as an activity. These, when made, could be re-used.

3. **Updates on water testing on the peninsula:** JH explained that there is now a programme of water testing in place until the end of October. Harkstead, Lower Holbrook, Woolverstone and Pin Mill were all going to be tested and the samples sent to a laboratory for analysis. JH offered to look after the incubator which had been used last year and would organise picking it up from KS.
  4. **Terms of reference:** to review/revise the GHGW terms of reference – the original terms of reference were considered, together with some suggested additions and alterations suggested by MH. Following some discussion about various points, it was agreed that SH, JH and MH would meet to incorporate some of the suggestions and then circulate the group for comments.
  5. **Action Plan:** to consider an action plan for the forthcoming year. MH had made some suggestions in an email, including having quarterly meetings. The group generally thought that this was too long a gap to maintain momentum but would certainly be in favour of not meeting in August and December for instance, or bi-monthly. The proposal is to prepare an annual calendar of actions to be undertaken . It was agreed to meet next in September to consider a revised Terms of Reference and a draft Calendar of events. It was noted that it would be good to finish the Hapenny Field Stumpery in September
- 6 **Updates (if any) on the following:**
- Eco Church: continuing work at All Saints
  - Swift Boxes have been installed at the Methodist Chapel but no swifts have been spotted nesting in them. The small garden at the Chapel is on hold until their wall has been done.
  - EV Charging Point: still ongoing but progressing
  - Annual Survey: all surveys have gone to Andrew King to analyse
  - Storytelling for a Changing Planet: SH reported that the hits have been low, so it needs more pushing. He reported that there are two community days in November, a Saturday and a Wednesday. Dates will be circulated when known.
  - Peninsula Green Network event: no progress on this.

7. **Any other business/ideas:** There is a Wildlife Trust Community event in October and SS reported that on Friday October 31<sup>st</sup> Hawk Honey is coming to talk about wasps. Also, MS is going to present Shifting Sound Scapes in the New Year – both events will be hosted by Holbrook Society.
8. **Next Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 7.00 p.m. at The Methodist Chapel.