



Minutes of the GHGW meeting held on 9th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m. at The Methodist Church.

Present: Mel Holmes (MH), John Ambrose (JA), Ed Basham (EB) Rob Collett (RC), Jo Hazlewood (JH), Simon Hooton (SH), Gerald Laws (GL), Matthew Shenton (MS), Kath Smith (KS), Brian Wales (BW)

Apologies: apologies were received from Sarah Peck and Suzanne Steer

1. **Matters/Actions** there were no matters arising from the previous meetings which were not included in Agenda
2. **Thermal Imaging Camera:** the camera was available from 6th – 10th March: 3 surveys have been carried out by MS. JH will return the camera as no further requests had been received
3. **Water testing:** JH reported that a new testing kit had been purchased by Harkstead, which enabled them to carry out testing and get results within 15 minutes. It was agreed that JH would contact them in the first instance to see if there was a possibility of sharing their equipment.
4. **The Great British Spring Clean** is taking place from 13th to 29th March: It was agreed to meet at 2 p.m. at the Church on 21st March and carry out a litter picking on some of the footpaths. JH will provide bags. EB pointed out that the bin at the back of the Academy gets often overflows – JH will attach a spare black sack to the bin which could replace the overfilled bag if necessary. She would also contact the Academy to ask if they might re-locate one of their bins to just inside the back entrance of the school.
5. **Updates (if any) on the following:**
 - Eco Church: RC reported it had been quiet over the winter – the holly has been cleared. There will be a Spring Clean on 28th March at All Saints Churchyard from 10 – 4, tea and coffee will be served. The Yew trees will need some attention. RC also said that Rik Wakeman will be giving a concert on 20th April at Ipswich Girls' School fundraising for the Church roof. GL reported that the Methodist Church garden is being extended and will include a variety of pots and plants.
 - Storytelling for a Changing Planet: SH said this is still ongoing - streaming will be live for a further year. SH is investigating various storytelling/arts events.

- Peninsula Green Network event – this is an item for the future.
6. **Fete: 6th June 2026:** MH said that the green tombola, vegan/vegetarian wraps last year were popular, but as there were only 2 people available it was impossible to cover everything the stall had to offer. MH, JH and SH said they would be available on the 6th. SH attended the Fete meeting where it had been agreed there would be a “floor” plan – he has booked space for 2 gazebos. It had also been agreed at the Fete Meeting that all stall holders will be asked to provide a raffle prize – GHGW will donate something fitting the green theme – e.g. fruit or fruit juice etc. There will also be a decorated wheelbarrow parade, themed around superheroes. SH had an idea to have a large ball to represent the world for the GHGW wheelbarrow and to build a theme around saving the planet.
 7. **Dawn Chorus** walk this will be on 4th May – 4.30 a.m. meet at the Village Hall Car Park. MS will do a poster.
 8. **Summer event:** SH suggested that over the Holbrook Trail weekend we include the stag beetle refuge at Firebronds as a venue for the trail and make some models of swifts, hedgehogs etc. The trail is 30th/31st May. SH will lead on this but may organise a making session
 9. **Review/Celebration** of new stag beetle sign – see Holbrook Trail. SH said that Shotley Countryside Group would like to commission a similar stag beetle sign. SH will contact Dan Thomas.
 10. **Wildflowers:** EB suggested we find a way of raising funds for a wildflower strip along The Cut. He already has some seeds, but not enough. SH suggested the addition of a few established plants as well as seeds. JH would contact Richard Parmee at Babergh to see if we could get some seeds/plants from them. SH suggested that National Landscape have funding from time to time as well as the Woodland Trust.
JA reported that Alexanders is re-establishing at the Stag Beetle Refuge. SH offered to cut this back and has some sturdy plastic lattice which he can put down.
 11. **Any other business/ideas:** Fundraising event: SH suggested a Holbrook Hedgehog hike in aid of the Wildlife Trust covering 3 kilometres (although these could be split into 3 separate 1k hikes). It was agreed that it would be an incentive to children if there were some items for children to collect whilst on the hike. EB suggested collecting different letters along the way culminating in the letters spelling a word associated with hedgehogs.
Village Diary: JA said it has been agreed that a Holbrook village diary is needed to avoid clashes and to let people know what is happening around the village. This would be a Facebook noticeboard – in the first instance all dates and information to be sent to JA

Saturday 18th April: SH mentioned “A Prism on Nature” at All Saints Church which would raise funds for the church roof

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th April at the Methodist Church 7.00 p.m.