



Minutes of the GHGW meeting to be held on 13th April 2026 at 7.00 p.m. at The Methodist Church.

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

Apologies: Maggie Good, Sarah Peck, Suzanne Steer

1. **Matters/Actions** arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered by the agenda – location of the GHGW bike: various suggestions were made and it was agreed that ideally it needs to be visible. MH would ask if it could be located outside the Church. JH offered to accommodate it if necessary.
- 2.. **Water testing:** update of liaison with Harkstead PC; JH had reached out to Harkstead to see if there was an opportunity to borrow their equipment in the first instance. Harkstead are consulting the relevant people. It was agreed that any signage as a result of testing the water would need to be very carefully worded with a disclaimer as the results of testing are only a snapshot at the time of testing – subject to frequent change.
3. **The Great British Spring Clean:** brief update on litter pick carried out 21st March: a litter pick was carried out by MH, JH and EB, concentrating on Hyams Lane and the path from the reservoir to Five Acres.
Bin outside Holbrook Academy: JH had written to Holbrook Academy to see if they could re-locate one of their bins to just inside the back gate, to alleviate the overflow of the council bin just outside the gate. Their site manager is looking into this.
4. **Fete: 6th June 2026:** to finalise GHGW arrangements for the Fete. MH and KS will organise the vegan wraps and will prepare these in the Methodist Chapel. JH will organise the “green” tombola and would welcome donations of suitable prizes – these could be dropped off at JH’s house in advance or delivered on the morning of the Fete. – SH will organise games and info, etc.. JA was organising a site plan and noted that GHGW would like a pitch which would take two gazebos and would also like two tables and a couple of chairs. MH & KS will liaise re the food shopping. SH reminded the group about the Wheelbarrow/Pram parade based on the theme of superheroes. MS will discuss with his children to see if they can come up with an idea, possibly using an old doll’s pram. Each organisation was encouraged to

supply a Draw prize for the main raffle and MH agreed to provide a bottle of apple juice.

5. **Dawn Chorus** walk 4th May – 4.30 a.m. – MS will do the RA. Everyone to meet at the village hall. Torches might be helpful. A similar route to last year but possibly including the boardwalk from Fishponds Lane.
6. **Summer event:** Stag beetle refuge is booked in for the Holbrook Trail weekend 30th/31st May. SH is producing a homemade version of a stag beetle and a large hedgehog and may use the grit bin to represent a house. MH offered to be present at the site for part of the time. MH & MS will help prep on the Saturday morning. The use of a QR code was suggested - further discussion/investigation at a future meeting.
7. **People's Emergency Briefing film**, introduced by Chris Packham. Following a discussion, it was agreed to see if GHGW could host a screening of this film. JA emailed the booking sec of the village hall to see if Friday 28th June is free. If a date could be found, JH would contact other Parish Councils on the peninsula, plus County and District Councillors and the local MP. GHGW would be happy to combine forces with another council/organisation if it transpired that a showing of the film was being planned by another organisation locally. JA suggested that the Youth Parish Council could be involved if possible, perhaps presenting a 5 minute video to represent their views. The format being proposed is to show the film and to generate a discussion afterwards. SH offered to put together a plan of action.
8. **Updates (if any) on the following:**
 - Eco Church: swift boxes will be turned on at the beginning of May and the planting by the side of the Methodist Chapel is going well.
 - Storytelling for a Changing Planet: SH is doing a 45 minute storytelling session on 14th June 2 – 3 at Manningtree Arts Centre
 - Wildflowers for The Cut – although a good idea, it was not thought to be practical as the terrain was unsuitable..
 - Village Diary – any GHGW dates to be submitted to JA to be included in the village diary
9. **Saturday 18th April:** “A Prism on Nature” at All Saints Church
10. **AOB:** JA: Street Lighting – there had been a suggestion that the timing of the street lighting be extended. JA explained that lights for which the Parish Council are responsible currently go off at 11.00 p.m. JA asked for the views of the members and the general consensus was not to extend beyond 11 p.m.
11. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 8th June at the Methodist Church 7.00 p.m.