MINUTES for the GHGW meeting to be held on 9th November 2026 at 7.00 p.m. at The Bowls Club, Holbrook.

Present: John Ambrose (JA), Rob Collett (RC), Jo Hazlewood (JH) Simon Hooton (SH), Matt Shenton (MS), Suzanne Steer (SS)

Apologies: Kathy Smith, Mel Holmes, G. Laws

1. **Updates (if any) on the following:**

   - Removal of Brambles at the Halfpenny Field Stumpery – SH has removed all the brambles prior to it being mowed.
   - Eco Church: Church clear up/maintenance due this Saturday 14th November – any help from GHGW would be welcome.)
   - Storytelling for a Changing Planet: still live, SH to launch his website soon
   - Beach Clean: MS & one of his children, plus JH undertook a beach clean a few weeks ago.
   - Paint/Chemicals amnesty: Following a discussion it was agreed to write to Waste Management at Babergh to see if a collection could be arranged. Dependent upon their response, an article could be put in the Parish papers to let them know the process of disposing of old paint and chemicals.

2. **Reform's "undeclared" Climate Emergency:** a letter to be sent to SCC from GHGW to query this.

3. **Ideas for The Year of the Bug**: It was agreed that the theme would underpin all our activities next year. MS offered to contact brownies, beavers, schools etc. to generate interest. He has some recorded bug sounds which he could share. SH said historically there had been little response from schools, due to the strain on teachers' time. SS suggested building a Large Bug hotel at the Reade Field, probably in the wooded area. "Bugingham Palace" plus maybe some small bug houses as a Fete activity. Collect materials before the Fete – perhaps appeal for suitable materials in a Parish Papers in the New Year. If we launch a bug picture competition, it will need to be planned and coordinated by someone. A suggestion was to put a picture in the Parish Papers to be coloured in/painted. It was also suggested we could launch a competition in February/March for a cover picture for the April/May edition. Another suggestion was a "bug" talk combined with Holbrook Society. Lisa to

be asked if she could write an article about bugs in PPs in the New Year. Geoff Sinclair is doing a talk at HS in June which could co-organised with GHGW. SH is also going to do a talk on Estuary Life in the New Year. Another activity could be a moth watch if we can borrow the necessary equipment. SH will also create some bug stories.

4. **Great British Spring Clean – 12th – 28th March:** it was agreed to make 20/21 March a Spring Clean weekend – an organised litter pick to be advertised in the Parish Papers, starting at 10 a.m. at The Church on 20th March. The litter pick would concentrate on footpaths and areas not covered by the Community Caretaker.

5. **Holbrook Churchyard autumn season prep. Sat 14 Nov – see above**

6. **Community Engagement – can we do more?** SH pointed out that the District Council had been very quiet recently re biodiversity and climate change. SH would try and attend the PC Meeting to ask what may be happening at local council level. Manningtree have a very successful and active group. There are some panel discussions at Manningtree Arts Café on climate on 20th November, 11th December, and one in January starting at 7.30 **Link:** ***https://www.manningtreearts.com/community-climate-action*** SH will write something in PPs about GHGW and what we do to try and encourage people to come to our meetings. SH had written again to the local MP to ask if he was going to take part in the forthcoming climate debate in parliament.

7. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 11th January 2027 at the Methodist Church (RC registered apologies as he had another commitment)