



Minutes of the GHGW meeting held on 14th September 2026 at 7.00 p.m. at The Bowls Club, Holbrook.

Present: J Ambrose (JA), Jo Hazlewood (JH), S Hooton (SH), M Shenton (MS), S Steer (SS), B Whales (BW)

Apologies: apologies from Kathy Smith, Mel Holmes, Sarah Peck & David Walker.

1. Feedback from Holbrook Trail and Fete: GHGW had a contribution to the trail at Firebronds/Hapenny Field at the Stage Beetle stumpery as part of this year's Holbrook Trail. At the Fete we had a successful "green" tombola, but the vegan wraps were less successful. Maybe consider alternatives next year. GHGW entered an excellent David Attenborough entry to the superhero competition. The Fete is on 12th June next year due to Bank Holiday – David Walker had sent an idea about launching a bug drawing competition for children to raise awareness of the decline in insect diversity. This suggestion was enthusiastically welcomed. SH thought there might be grant funding for activities with children which he would investigate.

2. Screening of The Peoples Emergency Briefing: attendance was fairly disappointing, but it was screened on possibly the hottest day of the year. There were attendees from other villages. SH had responded to the letter received from James Cartledge MP but had received no response. There have been over 2,000 showings of the film and momentum is increasing to try and get a national screening on television. The circulated petition had enough signatures to prompt a discussion in Parliament. The general feedback from the film was that, although the situation is critical, there were suggestions of positive actions which could and should be taken to improve the climate crisis.

3. Updates (if any) on the following:

- **Eco Church:** there are small oaks growing in the Churchyard which need some kind of identification for the future – SH has some hazel wands which could be dipped in white paint and attached to the saplings.
- SH pointed out that the brambles need to be lifted near the stumpery. A working party to do this would be ideal – anyone who might have time could circulate the group to organise a small working party
- **Storytelling for a Changing Planet:** stories are available until March 2027. SH has been telling the stories in various venues and Arts Festivals.

4. Planter outside the Coop: the Parish Council have suggested GHGW could take responsibility for maintaining this planter – currently in need of TLC. SS has a sedum rupestre and could supply cuttings – these are low maintenance and insect friendly. BW offered to undertake the maintenance of the planter. Any

donations of plants to go to BW. It was agreed that an additional planter would enhance the frontage of the Co-op, but this would need to be agreed by the Co-op. SS had some palettes which could be used if someone was able to make another planter. It was agreed that on the “bug” theme, it would be good to have plants which were bug/insect friendly.

5. Articles in Parish Papers: thanks go to Lisa for her very well researched articles in the PPs. In the August/Sept edition, she provided an excellent article following the Peoples’ Emergency Briefing. She has written an article about Resilience in our Gardens for the forthcoming October/November edition which had been circulated to the group.

6. The Great British Beach Clean 18th – 27th September 2026 – it was agreed that we would carry out a litter pick/beach clean at 9 a.m. on Sat 19th Sept – meet at the Lower Holbrook Car Park. JH will email the group in case anyone would like to join. JH will provide black sacks and litter pickers if needed. Participants to provide their own gloves if possible.

7. Climate Emergency - do we challenge Reform’s “undeclared Climate Emergency”? JH will write something to circulate from GHGW to the Parish Council to ask for support to counter this and also to ask the PC to raise the issue with the Shotley Peninsula Parish Council Alliance. It was suggested also to ask the PC to look at the prevention of wildfires when reviewing the Parish Council’s Emergency Plan.

8. Local Food resilience – an article had been circulated prior to the meeting with some information and ideas about food resilience and how local communities can help to build resilience.

9. Paint/Chemicals amnesty: following a discussion it was agreed to see if a village plan for a paint/chemical amnesty could be launched. JH will write to the CEO of the County Council, copying in the County Councillor, to seek their support. GHGW would volunteer to help to facilitate this by manning a venue for the amnesty.

10. HPC’s Biodiversity Action Plan for comment/suggestions: it was agreed that it ideally needs to specify some key actions

11 Ideas to feed into GHGW Action Plan - . It was agreed to link the majority of GHGW’s activities next year to the insect/bugs theme. Maybe launching the “Year of the Bug” (title to be fixed, possibly via a competition). It was agreed that it would be excellent to get Youth Council involved and encourage ideas for the bug theme.

BW pointed out that the maps at the village hall did not show green spaces. JH confirmed that there were designated green spaces in Holbrook’s Neighbourhood Plan. it was agreed that the OS maps would identify green spaces.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 9th November 2026 Church 7.00 p.m. (to be confirmed with the Methodist Chapel).to be focused on the launch of “Year of the Bug”