

Charmouth Environment Group

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 at The Elms

Present: Julie Leah, Ivor Clist, John Smith, Andrew Lightfoot

Apologies: Jane Bremner, Katy Tunstall, Peter Noel

1. **Britain in Bloom:** The certificate was displayed with a Silver award and the It's Your Neighbourhood certificates in category 4 awarded to the library and residents of St. Andrews House were noted with pleasure. A summary of the judges' comments is appended to these notes. The Playing Field Committee was invited to reflect on the judges' comments when considering budget allocations for the following year. It was agreed that an article would be submitted to Shoreline on the outcome of this year's entry and encouraging more groups in the village to consider entering the It's Your Neighbourhood category in 2024. Andrew was to respond to the RHS survey about the competition.
2. **Hedge and bulb planting:** arrangements were made for planting in the playing field on Saturday 21st October. Further bulb planting was to be undertaken on the following Saturday and possibly further dates. The Parish Council had purchased 750 daffodil and narcissi bulbs and Rotary was donating 500 crocus corms. Other sites for bulb planting recommended to the Playing Field Committee were: the entrances to the village, bank on the southern side of Axminster Road, area at the junction of The Street and Higher Sea Lane, junction of Higher Sea Lane and Double Common, planters and the Jubilee Garden, verge on Lower Sea Lane beside the school, beside the footpath from Lower Sea Lane leading to the bridge over the river.
It was understood that Rotary was also donating a substantial oak tree, expected in December: the recommended planting site was in the playing field between the Queens Green Canopy and the compost bins. It was agreed to ask for the grass to be cut and removed in the community orchard.
3. **Environment Exchange:** the first of the informal gatherings in the Bank House Café had taken place with 7 people attending. Issues and suggestions discussed included: encouraging It's Your Neighbourhood activities, promoting a repair café, encouraging collective installations of solar panels, dog controls, traffic concerns, recycling opportunities, climate change.

4. **Coastal adaptation:** the recent announcement of allocation of £6m to fund innovative coastal defence measures in Bude, Swanage and Charmouth was noted with interest. Details were awaited.
5. **River Char:** confirmation of arrangements for the nurdle clear up were still awaited.
6. **Community energy champions:** a new person was taking up this role in Charmouth following training.
7. **Carbon footprinting:** Councillor Bawden had sent details and it was proposed to offer a summary article to Shoreline.
8. **Carbon literacy training:** Councillor Bawden was arranging another set of workshops and John and Andrew expressed interest in attending.
9. **Church refurbishment:** John reported on the work completed to replace cement with lime mortar on the church walls, allowing them to breathe, and remedial work to safeguard the internal ceiling. Within the next 5 years, it was hoped to replace the gas heating system with air source heat pumps, or similar, and to install solar panels on the south facing roof.
10. **Notes of meeting held on 15th August:** noted. It was hoped that work on new designs for the information plaques would commence shortly.
11. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 9th January 2024

ACTION POINTS

Playing Field Cttee:

- Britain in Bloom judges' comments
- Bulb planting sites
- Site for oak tree
- Carbon literacy training offer

Foreshore Committee:

- Britain in Bloom judges' comments

Andrew:

- RHS survey response
- Shoreline articles

All to note:

- Hedge and bulb planting, 21st and 28th October and beyond;
- Environment Exchange Saturday 4th November and 2nd December

