

Charmouth Parish Council

Environment Group: notes of meeting on 31st May 2022

Present: Jane Bremner, Julie Leah, Maralyn Hinxman, Andrew Lightfoot

Apologies: Peter Noel

1. **Terms of reference:** Jane reported on communication with the Clerk regarding membership of this Group. It was noted that there could be a minimum of 4 Councillors, as well as co-options from the public.
2. **South West in Bloom:** Andrew reported on a meeting in the morning with our mentor for this competition and the information she had provided. Potential short and longer term actions are appended. It was agreed that entry this year would provide a benchmark for future years and serve as a catalyst to bring a number of bodies together. With a minimum of 4 weeks till judging, it was agreed to concentrate on a few things which could be improved and to engage with a number of organisations which might co-operate. It was agreed that the following contacts be made:
 - Andrew: Council office, letter to other bodies, library, Heritage Coast Centre;
 - Jane: history etc of the village to provide context for the portfolio;
 - Julie: school, scouts, tennis club, Shoreline, Hanover Housing
 - Maralyn: garden club, history society.
3. **Community garden:** A link to the RHS web site information on community gardens had been circulated. Jane agreed to draft a note on the proposition for consideration by the Playing Fields Committee.
4. **Planters:** the new planting in the planters on Lower Sea Lane was noted with satisfaction. It was agreed to recommend to the Foreshore Committee that the remaining 4 planters be grouped at the foreshore, stained blue if possible and planted with salt tolerant plants.
5. **Actions from staff appraisals:**
 - Solar panels: Andrew had obtained a quote from Fords for solar panels on the roof of the Heritage Coast Centre, costing less than £7,000. However, since the Council has a very favourable tariff until March 2024, it was agreed to delay any further investigation for 12 months.
 - Recycling: Julie was continuing to investigate options.

- Herbicides: the Council's maintenance team had stopped using herbicides in favour of manual hoeing. Jane recommended further action to: clear soil and debris from hard surfaces; seal cracks in pavements; plant ground cover where weeds were a problem.
6. **Carbon footprint auditing:** information on the various tools available had been shared. It was agreed to focus on an event during 'Big Green Week' in September when the public could be invited to hear about a number of current and proposed projects, including carbon footprint auditing.
 7. **River Char project:** an update had been presented at the Council's annual Parish Meeting 2 weeks previously. Meanwhile, Julie had been engaged in fund raising.
 8. **Articles for Shoreline and web site:** Jane and Julie agreed to collaborate on a positive article summarizing various actions by the deadline of 27th June.
 9. **Notes of meeting held on 5th April:** Andrew to check on acquisition of water transporter and suggestion of plaque for the reed bed put to the Foreshore Committee.
 10. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 16th August at 7pm

Recommendations:

To Playing Field Committee:

- Support actions for South West in Bloom entry – see list attached;
- Support investigation of community garden idea on the playing field;
- Support 'environment day' in September;

To Foreshore Committee:

- Accommodate 4 planters near the Heritage Coast Centre;
- Commission design of a plaque describing management of the reed bed;
- Actions for SW in Bloom entry – differential mowing.

South West in Bloom: potential projects

Short term

Info on web site eg plant of the week

Tree trail leaflet

Improve information plaques

Restain bench by noticeboard

Weeds by Morgans

Fence by bowling green eg knitted emblems

Differential mowing eg maze, paths, crown

Wall/fence by tennis courts

Clean street furniture

Planters at foreshore

Longer term

Pond in middle of playing field

Water butts

New plaque re reed bed

Library hub with interpretation material

Community garden and orchard

Bat and bird boxes

Lower Sea Lane seating area

Open gardens

Portfolio/judge's tour: to include:

- history/character of village,
- Jurassic coast,
- school,
- dog poo wardens,
- Shoreline,
- Hanover Housing,
- Traders and pubs.

Contacts: garden club, library, knitters, school, Heritage Coast Centre, history society, Shoreline, scouts, Hanover Housing, Dorset Council (for mechanical sweeper).