Greening Wingrove Board

Minutes of meeting held on 4th April 2024

Present: Jo Ellis (notes), Mark Copsey, Simran Chopra and Stuart Muir, plus Mark Pardoe and Helen Hardman from Fenham Pocket Park.

Apologies were received from Michael Page, Alistair Ford, Katy Sillem, Don Morrison, Natalie Rotterova and Ben Page.

The meeting was not therefore quorate and no binding decisions were taken.

Presentation from Fenham Pocket Park

Mark Pardoe and Helen Hardman explained the history and present circumstances of the Fenham Pocket Park. It was established in 2017 with DCLG support and input from Newcastle University and Sustrans. The closure of Fenham Pool has affected its use – although an increase in community events at the library may have brought it to more people’s attention.

HH and MP would like to work with us to encourage more people to volunteer there. We also wondered whether it would be possible to run joint volunteering tasks that might attract the support of corporate groups (HH has heard from the NHS regarding this but they want a more substantial task) MC wondered whether work at the Pocket Park might be supported by the purchase of a street vacuum cleaner.

The PP is also looking for more horticultural expertise.

Actions – JE to ask David Rochester and Margaret Maddison if they can give a bit of advice on the plants; everyone to tag each other in social media posts about volunteering tasks etc.

Other matters

Since the meeting was not quorate there was a general discussion rather than a meeting with decisions.

MC had written a report on GW processes which covers most of the issues that were going to be discussed.

Points made were:

The website needs to be updated to direct bookings enquiries towards the bookings@gw email. There also ought to be a bookings form on the website.

Each event needs to be led by a given person.

All events need to be agreed by the Board and this must be followed by:

• Publicity via the mailing list, social media and the calendar on the website

• Risk assessment

• A statement of what is needed for the event, likely costs and resources

MC can arrange a training session with the Board on legal responsibilities and liabilities.

Actions: everyone to look at MC’s report and make suggestions.

Wrapping up the “Turbocharging the Bike Garden” project

We have not completed all of the tasks that were included within the “Turbocharging the Bike Garden” project. (This, however, isn’t really the fault of the events co-ordinator (Jacque Scollen) who was employed to organise them.) The outstanding elements are:

• Planting trees. JS says that this has been done, but we haven’t got any evidence to say it has. We need photos and an invoice for the trees.

• Summer food market: this could be arranged for a date in the near future. It was suggested that FAB bakery, who organise a food market at St James and St Basil’s, might be able to help us with this. We could pay new businesses to take part, and/ or ask established ones to pay.

• Bike activities: we have received a quote for these, which is rather more than the bid suggested – however, we may be able to run the activities in part.

AGM

Date set: 20th April at 11am.

The formal business of the AGM will only last half an hour or so. Then we will want to organise some entertainment (possibly Natalie’s band) and a speaker (possibly Mike Greatbatch or Mark Ridsdill-Smith). NWT may be able to supply wildflower seeds.

We will also need catering – MP may be able to provide.

Actions: contact everyone on the mailing list, tell them about the AGM, invite them to put themselves forward as Board members.

Contact potential speakers and musicians

Arrange catering.