



Greening Wingrove Board Meeting MINUTES

10th of July 2025 - 6pm – 7.30 pm

1. Attendance and apologies

In attendance: Katy Sillem, Helena Saget, Rachel Richman, Paul Miskin, Alistair Ford, black harlequin ladybird

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters to celebrate

A £25 voucher has been donated to KS - it is proposed that this is used for a prize for a photography competition capturing the best 'weeds' in the Wingrove area, celebrating natural beauty.

The submission of two funding bids (Cycling UK and Naturesave Trust) was celebrated.

4. Matters arising

- A follow-up email is to be sent to Don Morrison confirming his status on the board [RR]
- Simran Chopra has been removed from the directors and is thanked for her service
- The GW constitution will be added to the website as soon as is practicable [KS]

5. Membership

- a. New member requests for approval - NONE

6. Finance and Governance (finance and fundraising, relationship with council; legal compliance; long term planning; conflict resolution, Safeguarding)

- a. Expectations of Directors

After discussion with Connected Voice and legal advice the board agreed that there is a conflict of interest with Michael Page being a member of the GW board and running a business in the Bike Garden which benefits from GW.

It was agreed that the board will send a letter to MP requesting that he step down from the board on the 17th of July. The board will write the letter collaboratively. **[All]**

- b. It was proposed that the possibility of directors indemnity insurance is explored to protect the board from future liabilities. Existing insurance policies will be reviewed to check we don't already have indemnity through existing policies **[AF]**

- c. Approval of new or reappointed directors proposals for discussion

A discussion was held about new appointments to the board. RR commented that we should seek to maintain a balance of board members to ensure a broad range of skills, diversity of people, and geographical coverage across the GW area. This will be added as a discussion item at the next board meeting **[KS]**

- i. Don Morrisson (Reappointment) - RR to check Don wants to rejoin.
- ii. Hannah Smithurst (new) - approved by the board
- iii. Chris O'Connor - approved by the board, *subject to exploration of potential conflict of interest with Bonsai Billabong*

[RR] to explore the cost of a VONNE advert for new directors.

- d. Policies to approve

- i. Approval of Environmental Policy:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1er6EOze-fza_cal7foS8mbxvfootvYnu/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110690218990501581496&rtpof=true&sd=true

The board discussed the new Environmental Policy to be adopted. This is to be circulated to directions for comments before the 7th of August and adoption at the next board meeting **[KS]**

e. Complaints raised

There have been complaints about an ex-key-holder staying after hours in the Bike Garden. This has been resolved.

A complaint was raised by Kevin about dog poo in the Bike Garden. A reminder has been posted for users.

There was a discussion about the need for a Whistleblowing Policy. This will be further explored at the next board meeting.

f. Safeguarding update

Three members of GW are doing Level 3 Safeguarding training.

[AF] will provide a Nokia phone to **[KS]** for use as a safeguarding number.

g. Treasurers Update

HS gave an update on finances.

It was agreed that some money (£6000) be ringfenced as a safeguard against future rent increases by Newcastle City Council (see Item i below)

h. Updates around potential funding & partnerships

i. Blue Green Newcastle

KS is in discussion with Andy King at Blue Green Newcastle about a potential long-term (5 year) funding bid for the Bike Garden.

ii. National Lottery

KS has a meeting with the Lottery on Thursday the 17th of July

iii. Howdens

A £500 donation by Howdens has been secured by member Graham Wykes. The board thank Graham for this endeavour. £60 of the £500 will be ringfenced for admin support and the rest spent on materials. **KS to communicate this to Bike Garden Working Group**

iv. Nature Save

A £5000 funding bid has been submitted for activities linking local people with nature and building community

v. Cycling UK Big Bike Revival

RR has submitted a bid to Cycling UK to fund further cycling activities from the Bike Garden.

i. Budget updates

i. Proposal to ringfence £6000 to cover potential cost from the lease transfer (legal fees & solicitor) agreed by the board.

ii. It was proposed that if bookings fees will allow it we pay key holders to open the Bike Garden. Others suggested that this should be a voluntary role unless payment is absolutely necessary. No agreement was reached. There is a meeting of keyholders on the 21st of July to discuss ideas.

iii. **Proposal:** Consider fundraising / Business plan proposal from Ali Pritchard see appendix 4 & 1

iv. **Proposal:** Small budget for Chris O'Connor to care for the garden

j. Update on work with Nimerta from Connected Voice on Developing Roles

7. Garden (Bike Garden, Food Growing, Community Events, Bookings at the Bike Garden)

a. Health and Safety Concerns at the Bike Garden

Concerns have been raised by members of the public about health and safety issues at the Bike Garden. The board discussed the need for a logbook for safety concerns as well as an incident log.

The board proposed that a clause be added to the hire agreement stating that users of the Bike Garden do so at their own risk.

AF proposed a big Bike Garden clearout to make the environment safe. RR supported this. No agreement was reached.

b. Update on Lease (see appendix 2)

8. A.O.B

Meeting closed at 19:30

