

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022

Present: Jenny Cottee, Carol McLellan, Julie Lawrence, Martin Bourne, Jean Rainey

Apologies: Liz Ellis

1. **AGM**

- 1.1 Due to Covid our last AGM was in September 2019, with a newsletter sent out in 2021 and annual Accounts maintained & scrutinised in the interim; these were available on our website.
- 1.2 Activities in the last 12 months: two Litter Picks, RBC talk on Council Housing energy/insulation improvements, one bulb planting event and the putting up and taking down of Christmas lights.
- 1.3 Carol had prepared a Summary of Income & Expenditure for 1/4/21 to 31/3/22 which would be circulated with the Minutes. We still had a healthy financial reserve though two of our sponsors, Car Contacts and the Village Butchers were no longer in business; we now needed projects on which to spend the money. Our long-standing scrutineer Colin Robinson sadly died earlier this year but another volunteer, Sophie Anderson, had kindly taken on this role. Everyone thanked Carol for looking after the Accounts so well and our sponsors for their past & continuing support.
- 1.4 We agreed to buy 10 more litter pickers to supplement the remaining seven. Jenny would try to find out which leaflets we needed to re-order, by the next meeting.
- 1.5 We discussed plans for the coming year:
Bulb Planting in October or November to thicken up areas already planted, possibly in front of the Library (snowdrops), in front of the Triangle Co-op (Scillas? Anemone blanda?), along the path in Victoria Recreation Ground (Crocus?) and/or at the corner of Pierces Hill (daffodils and Crocus?). Please email Tilehurst Globe with opinions or suggestions on this.
Talks/Walks: Martin suggested Ailsa Claybourn for a talk and or walk on birds and wildlife.
Key People: For the incoming year the following agreed to be Key People: Jenny & Liz (organisation), Carol (accounts), Pam (room bookings), Jean (minutes and posters).

2. **Commemorative Tree for Queen Elizabeth II**

- 2.1 We discussed the choice and siting of the tree to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's 70 year reign. We agreed to plant a fastigiata (tall & narrow) tree that would be hardy, likely to survive and would seem appropriate. Having agreed the specification we thought a fastigiata Silver Birch would be suitable as this was as close to a Platinum tree as we could get & Silver Birches seem to flourish locally and that the site should be somewhere in front of the Triangle shops. We would check on-site after the meeting to choose the best spot. We would ask the advice of Roger the Tree Warden on where to get it, how to plant it and if there were any underground services etc to avoid. Tilehurst Globe would pay for the tree, tree guard, plaque and planting. (PS The corner of the grassed area near the road in line with the War Memorial was selected).

3. **Any Other Business**

- 3.1 The Tilehurst **Parish** Neighbourhood Development Plan from West Berkshire Council was out for Public Consultation from now to 24th October. Details of the plan and drop-in events could be viewed at www.tilehurstpcnp.org.uk/public-consultation .
- 3.2 Land owned by the Tilehurst Poor's Lands Charity off Kentwood Hill & Armour Hill had been sold. The developers would survey the land prior to any planning application and to do this had the Council's agreement to cut down shrubs, overgrowth etc., but not trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders. The Council required the presence of an ecologist whilst the clearance was done, which should take three weeks. There were set procedures to be followed if vulnerable wildlife was found. Allotment plot-holders were unhappy about the use of the carpark for the developer's site office. Local residents would be watching to see that Council requirements were followed.

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON 20TH APRIL 2022

Present: Liz Ellis, Jenny Cottee, Carol McLellan, Roger Sym, David Glanville, Julie Alexander, Jean Rainey

1. Stall at Tilehurst Village Fete

- 1.1 The fete would be held on 18th June in Victoria Recreation Ground between 11am and 4pm. Liz said that we would have some of the following on boards: the recycling check list, climate change suggestions sheet, Tilehurst history leaflets, front garden planting suggestions leaflet, Japanese knotweed sheet, Walks and Troughs leaflets plus stacks of each on tables for visitors to take. She had also finished drawing up the Quiz. Dave would provide a copy of a 1932 map of the area for display. Roger would provide leaflets on tree planting and a sign-up sheet for interested people to add their name to. Liz also had some old GLOBE newsletters which she would put on a board to show what GLOBE had done in the past and ask what people would like us to do in future. She would email previous helpers after the Bank Holiday weekend to see if they could help this time. Between them Liz and Jenny would bring the gazebo, tables, chairs and boards.

2. Downing Road Planning Application

- 2.1 Liz had received a letter from Reading Borough Council's Planning Department saying that the applicant had appealed against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission for a shop with 4 flats above on land on the corner of Downing and School Roads. RBC would forward all the representations already made to them about the application, to the Planning Inspectorate. If anyone wanted to make further comments or modify or withdraw their previous representation they could do so at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by emailing east1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or writing (quoting the appeal reference APP/E0345/W/21/3289234) and sending 3 copies to: Jacky Parsons, The Planning Inspectorate, 3C Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN **by 9th June**.

3. Any Other Business

- 3.1 Carol confirmed that Battle Library would like more of the Walks and Cattle Trough leaflets.
- 3.2 Liz said that she had contacted RBC on many occasions on GLOBE's behalf on such issues as street safety, planning issues, waste collection etc but rarely received any reply. Those present suggested contacting a local councillor to ask why RBC did not reply to enquiries from the public as they should.

Date of Next GLOBE Meeting: Wednesday 15th June 2022 7.30pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON 20TH APRIL 2022

Present: Liz Ellis, Jenny Cottee, Carol McLellan, Pam Webb, Roger Sym, Joy Sheard, Pam Sheard, David Glanville, Julie Alexander, Anne Thompson, Jean Rainey

1. Litter Picking Event

1.1 Liz said that the event was a success and that the litter-pickers seemed keen to do more picks. Doing it on our own had turned out to be not too difficult. We discussed how often and where picks should be held; suggestions were invited from residents. Liz said that the only way to report the large waste recorded by our pickers to RBC was as street waste and the process had been very difficult. **Jean** would check tomorrow if the items reported were still in Blundell's Copse [they were]. RBC needed evidence of who was fly-tipping before they could take action against them. Roger had heard that RBC was starting a new policy of two free bulky waste collections per household per year; hopefully this would greatly reduce fly-tipping.

2. Stall at Tilehurst Village Fete

2.1 Tilehurst GLOBE had a plot booked for the Tilehurst Fete on Saturday 18th June. Julie would bring the Walks leaflets, Liz had some display boards, Roger could provide chairs, Jenny had a gazebo and would borrow some tables from the THA. Carol suggested having copies of the recycling advice sheet for distribution; **Liz** would ask the chap who made it if he would update it. We agreed that the message would be Tilehurst and GLOBE history since the Queen's accession to the throne, including Tilehurst Memories, a 'Platinum' Quiz' (**Liz** to compile), possibly colouring for children (**Liz** would speak to a contact about this), a current map of Tilehurst and perhaps one from the 1950s plus **Roger** would do a poster, leaflet and suggestion forms for new trees to be planted. Other ideas and help with the stall were welcome. We would need to have all the practicalities sorted out by the next meeting.

3. Trees

3.1 Roger & Jenny's list of sites identified as places suitable for new trees would be circulated and further ideas invited. We would need to know what and where by the September planting season. The Tree Wardens would be able to help with selecting, ordering, storing and planting but residents would have to pay for the tree and look after it until it was established. .

4. Any Other Business

4.1 **Jenny** would check if Tilehurst Library needed more stocks of the Walks and Cattle Trough leaflets; **Carol** would do the same for Battle Library. **Liz and Julie** would check on stocks of the Cattle Trough leaflet.

4.2 Carol asked if anyone knew someone with book-keeping experience to replace our accounts overseer who could no longer do the task; it required scrutiny only once a year and had to be someone not associated directly with GLOBE. **Julie** had someone who she would ask.

Date of Next GLOBE Meeting: Wednesday 18th May 2022 7.30pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON 16TH MARCH 2022

Present: Liz Ellis, Jenny Cottee, Carol McLellan, Pam Webb, Roger Sym, Gabrielle Watts, Julie Lawrence, Jean Rainey

1. Litter Picking Event

- 1.1 Liz had asked the Triangle Co-op if GLOBE could be involved in their litter-picking event. They were happy to have us and asked what dates we suggested (within their set period of end March, early April). After discussion we decided on April 3rd, 9th or 10th between 10 and 12am. Liz would get back to them with the dates and also ask if they would be getting rid of the resultant rubbish, provide gear and had insurance and what their policy was regarding children taking part. If the Co-op could not do any of those dates, we would do an event on our own on April 3rd. Those present made various suggestions about where to tidy but this could be finalised later. Jean would produce a poster advertising the event.

2. Tree to Commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- 2.1 We agreed to plant a tree near the Triangle shops for the Queen's Jubilee. We agreed a budget of £250 to include purchase of the tree, tree guards, cage, root guard (to protect underground services from future tree roots) and a plaque. Suggestions of what to plant should be emailed to Roger, as one of the local volunteer Tree Wardens. We would need to check with RBC if they had any restrictions as to location, tree type etc. We might delay planting until Autumn and not install the plaque until we were sure that the tree was going to survive.

3. Wildflowers on bunds

- 3.1 It would take quite a lot of planning to organise seeds, plugs, scarifying of the ground, adding Yellow Rattle to reduce the vigour of the grass and actual planting to revitalise the wildflowers on the various bunds; we would consider this around September time.

4. Money-Saving Ideas

- 4.1 Many of the ideas on our 'Combating Climate Change' poster from November 2021 would also save us money. In addition people suggested communal bulk buying (rice, beans, garden supplies etc), sharing the cost and use of a green waste bin, using refills (there is a refill shop in Emmer Green), freezing leftovers, cooking food in bulk and freezing in portions. The Exotic Superstore on Oxford Road was recommended for bulk buying and conversely for being able to buy fruit and veg in small amounts to avoid waste.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 Liz had received an email from Facebook saying that we were not using our site enough and it may be deleted. Liz would ask Linda, who looked after our Facebook page, to investigate.
- 5.2 It was suggested that we have a talk about solar panels.
- 5.3 Liz said that she had heard that BT was changing from copper to fibre for landlines; this would mean that landlines would not work in a power cut. There were concerns that this would affect the elderly and disabled and others who depended on a landline. We needed to find out more – perhaps from Ofcom?
- 5.4 We had not received a booking form for the Summer Fete; Carol would chase.
- 5.5 Liz would check how many Local Walks leaflets we had, to see if we needed to print more; there were none in the local Library.

Date of Next GLOBE Meeting: Wednesday 20th April 2022 7.30pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2022

Present: (whole meeting) Liz Ellis, Jenny Cottee, Carol McLellan, David Pick, David Glanville, Julie Alexander, Jean Rainey, Anne Thompson, Cathy Daisy, Kevin Daisy
(Kentwood Hill item only) Deb Dabb, Julia Waters, Jo Skidmore, Alex Foxon, Sarah Darlow, P Darlow

1. Heating and Insulation

- 1.1 Liz referred to a recent newspaper article about heat pumps which said that they were expensive, inefficient and very large. David Pick, who had made some very useful fact sheets on boilers and heat loss in houses which had been circulated to those on the GLOBE mailing list, agreed that they were not as efficient as gas boilers and would require new larger radiators too. He also mentioned some alternatives to the standard heat pump which were being explored including a high temperature one in the Netherlands and adapting existing boilers to take other gases. 'Wait & See' seemed the best advice; new developments would hopefully make alternatives to gas boilers more viable for the ordinary householder.
- 1.2 The best ways to reduce heat loss were cavity wall and loft insulation, double glazing, thick carpets and good underlay on floors, draught proofing and installing heating timers, room thermostats and thermostatic radiator valves. There were other methods such as insulation panels for inside or outside walls but these were not appropriate for older or smaller houses.

2. Trees and Plants for Front Gardens

- 2.1 Jenny and Roger Sym, the Tilehurst Tree Warden, had recently rechecked several sites from the map of suggested tree planting areas that GLOBE produced three years ago and had identified ten sites to be priorities for new Tree Warden plantings next time money became available. In the meantime the Tree Wardens were offering 'whips' (one year old trees) for sale to GLOBE for locals to plant. It was worth noting that any trees planted by locals would have to be maintained by them until they became established.
- 2.2 Jean suggested some websites, books, magazines and other sources for information and ideas on tree and other plantings for front gardens. There were endless possibilities from a large tree to a tiny pot of bulbs. She would put together a note of suggestions for circulation. There was some discussion on how we could encourage people to try adding more trees and plants to their front gardens including information boards at local shows, pictures on social media and contacting other community groups.

3. Crossing Safety

- 3.1 Liz reported that there had been no further action from RBC regarding crossing safety outside the School Road Co-op.

4. Kentwood Hill Development Proposals

- 4.1 Deb and Julia updated the meeting with actions taken by the Keep Kentwood Green pressure group to try to stop development of the wild area along Kentwood Hill, owned by the Tilehurst Poor Lands Charity. They would hand in their petition to TPLC next week, had applied to RBC for the land to be listed as a Community Asset, the RBC Tree Preservation officer had agreed to review the land for new TPOs, they were trying to confirm the presence of badgers (a protected species), trying to get the path designated as a Right of Way, had contacted CPRE for advice and had brought some issues to the attention of the Charity Commission. Concerned locals should contact their MPs, local councillors and the Charity Commission and keep checking the website www.keepkentwoodgreen.com for updates.

Date of Next GLOBE Meeting: Wednesday 16th March 2022 7.30pm

TILEHURST GO LOCAL FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, TILEHURST, RG31 5AN ON 22ND JANUARY 2022

Present: Jenny Cottee, Pam Webb, Mary Fookes, Sally Archer, Steve Archer, Terry Pilick, John Kirton, Julie Lawrence, W MacPhee, Bruce McCormack, Deborah McCormack, Sarah Darlow, Paul Darlow, David Pick, Roger Sym, David Glanville, Sally Deacon, Julie Alexander, Robert Turner, Sam Manley, Jean Rainey

Apologies: Liz Ellis, Carol McLellan

1. Kentwood Hill Development

- 1.1 Most of those present had come about this topic and there was a lively discussion about it. The flyer prepared by the 'Keep Kentwood Green' group* ('KKG') explained the history of the land in question, the current situation and steps concerned people could take. Those present expressed concern about the impact on wildlife, green spaces, traffic, local infrastructure, allotments, road safety and trees and also asked what the owners, Tilehurst Poor Lands, were going to spend all the proceeds of the land sale on since they were a very low key charity. TPOs were mentioned: Jenny would pass this on to KKG. The 2019 Reading Local Plan includes conditions that must be included if this land is developed. KKG would be organising a petition and other actions: their website would be up soon. Pressure on local councillors was suggested: they have surgeries at 10am, Tilehurst Library, first Saturday each month.

2. Boilers/Heat Loss in Houses

- 2.1 Attendees 'in the trade' told the meeting about the problems with heat pumps to replace gas boilers (cost, size, need lots of pipes, efficiency in older houses) and of trials of a gas/hydrogen mix or pure hydrogen for which existing boilers could be easily adapted. David had made fact sheets on boilers and heat loss in houses*. We would discuss these at the next meeting.

3. Motorbikes on Pavements/Crossing Safety/Road Safety

- 3.1 The meeting again discussed issues of crossing safety outside the School Road Co-op (RBC have not yet installed halo lights citing cost), delivery motorbikes driving dangerously on the pavement outside the Co-op and elsewhere (complaints to Co-op, RBC, police and delivery firms had had no effect), speeding on Kentwood Hill (better placing of speed cameras?) and the weight limit on Langley Hill. Attendees suggested taking photos of speeders etc., and keeping the pressure on local councillors, firms and police on these issues.

4. Election Boundary Changes

- 4.1 LOCAL: Boundaries on all local wards were changing and all local councillors would be up for election in May. Some wards were hardly different, some had disappeared, and new ones formed though there were still 16 in total. All wards would have three councillors. The idea was to even out the number of electors in each ward. *More info is on RBC's website.*
MP: Comments from the recent consultation on the change of parliamentary constituency boundaries would be published soon with another consultation in March. We in Tilehurst would no longer be in Reading West but in a new, mostly rural constituency 'Mid Berkshire'.

5. Planting Trees in Small Front Gardens

- 5.1 Discussions have started about a new project to help people who want to plant suitable tree in their small front garden. The project (prompted by an enquiry from Armour Rd Residents Assn) would get council support because it meets a council objective to increase tree cover. Some attendees said that they had no room for trees in their front gardens, some said trees damaged services and pavements and others welcomed the idea and said that a tree could be grown in a pot or planter to deal with these difficulties.

**see attachments to minutes*

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th February 2022 7.30pm