

Melksham Environment Group meeting minutes

12th September 2024

Present: Graham, Nate, Mike, Miriam, Pat, Shirley, Gillian (minutes)

Apologies: Sue

1. Establishing the group with greater formality, bank account, officers and committee, constitution etc. <https://www.mkmeg.org.uk/constitution.html>

a) Officers were appointed as follows:

Chair: Shirley. Nominated by Mike, seconded by Nate, agreed unanimously.

Secretary: Gillian. Nominated by Shirley, seconded by Miriam, agreed unanimously.

Treasurer – it was proposed to ask Sue if she would be willing to stand (proposed by Graham, seconded by Pat, all agreed).

Project Lead: Graham. Nominated by Pat, seconded by Miriam, agreed unanimously.

Miriam, Mike, Nate and Pat were formally adopted as members of the committee.

b) Indemnity insurance:

Miriam will find out what the premium would be and will collect an appropriate membership fee to cover the costs of this. Pat will forward Miriam the details of the insurance premium and company used by The Larder.

The Treasurer will then set up a bank account and arrange the indemnity insurance (Graham can advise on this).

c) Constitution

Please feed back any comments or proposed amendments on the suggested constitution by the end of next week.

2. News update

It was agreed that the Food and River Festival stand was valuable and that although the Carnival resulted in greater distribution of leaflets and wider awareness, the Festival was helpful in the depth of the contacts. There are 6 contacts to follow up. It was agreed that it is useful to use local events for publicity.

Graham updated that the Melksham Transport User Group (MTUG) is being relaunched and he will update us further via email (website: <https://www.mtug.org.uk>) Graham has also been invited to become a director of the Board of Travel Watch South West. This is a user groups' user group, coordinating and providing expert advice to local transport user groups.

3. Looking forward

Any suggestions from the public at the Food and River Festival? Melksham in Bloom asked if it would be possible for the group to assist with the piece of ground in King Street car park as they haven't resources to develop it and it would be appropriate for rewilding. Shirley had also had a request from someone wanting to assist with a rewilding project for wellbeing benefits. Shirley had suggested we could ask whether the Melksham Green Spaces group would be amenable to take on rewilding projects and asked if members in both groups could enquire. Nate is a member of Green Spaces and told the group that Annie Benham-Taylor (Chair of Green Spaces) and the Green Spaces group are already thinking along these lines. There is a Green Spaces meeting planned in September/early October and Nate will raise this.

Shirley emphasised that it is important to give responses to queries promptly to build confidence in our group.

Graham is going to set up an email account for the group, has updated the website and is happy to be webmaster.

The group thanked Graham and Lisa for the beautiful, encouraging leaflet produced for the group and Graham will pass on our thanks to Lisa.

We have been asked to send 2 representatives to be part of a meeting with Brian Mathews, MP, re the Climate and Nature Bill. The meeting is on 12th October, 2-4pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Bradford-on-Avon. Graham and Pat agreed to represent the group.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th October 2024, 6.30pm at 48 Spa Road. Graham will also set up a Zoom link for the meeting.