

Charmouth Environment Group

Notes of meeting held on Thursday 12th December 2024

Present: Cllr Jane Bremner (Chair), Cllr Julie Leah, Katy Tunstall, Sam Webber, Andrew Lightfoot

Sam was welcomed to her first meeting of the Group.

- 1. South West in Bloom:** the Group was pleased to learn that Charmouth had been awarded Silver Gilt in the 2024 competition, an improvement on Silver the previous year. The judge was extremely appreciative of the welcome he had received and of the efforts which had been made by the many volunteers engaged in the three categories of environment, horticulture and community. Jane had requested details of the scoring of each section. It was agreed to enter again in 2025 since participation had attracted the interest of many residents in the village. In expectation that the library and St Andrews House residents would again enter the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section, the Parish Council had allocated £100 in garden vouchers for each group. Also Jane expressed an intention to join the Gardening Club to facilitate closer links.
- 2. New planting:** a Planting Party had been arranged for Saturday 21st December in order to add a variety of plants, especially winter flowering species, to the garden at The Elms. A further working party was to be organized for 25th January to undertake further hedge and tree planting, predominantly in the playing field. Julie said that c£100 remained in the Council's budget for early Spring planting. It had been accepted that the Foreshore management plan precluded planting of wild flower seeds in 'West Green'. The developing interest of the Council's external workforce in conservation of the environment was noted with appreciation. The Group discussed the potential for creation of a community garden, as had happened in many places elsewhere. This was envisaged as a longer term project which would be an exciting opportunity to build interest in food cultivation.
- 3. Information plaques:** Jane reported that a basic information sign was to be installed regarding the ant hills above West Green. Also, the designer was imminently due to commence work on a plaque for the playing field. The Parish Council's team was to make a hard wood frame to hold this plaque.

4. **Environment Exchange:** meetings were to continue in the Bank House Café in December, January and February. (Post meeting note: 7 people attended the December session, including 3 who hadn't been engaged previously). Thereafter, a request was to be made to the Parish Council for funding to cover the cost of hiring the meeting room in the library (@£7 per month for 9 months pa) on a trial basis.
5. **Environment Day:** it was agreed to work towards staging an Environment Day in the Autumn which could cover topics such as public transport, affordable housing, a community garden, home energy efficiency, water pollution, with talks and stalls. The merit of publishing an environment newsletter also was aired.
6. **River Char:** Julie reported that the Dragon Festival was to be staged on 31st May with a focus on wildlife. Improved links with the school and scouts were developing.
7. **Notes of the meeting held on 1st October:** Further to the information reported above, the following action was noted:
 - Approval given for 'terraces' of sparrow nesting boxes;
 - Scope for enhanced recycling facilities at the foreshore being explored;
 - Parish Council web site being developed with event details; Jane invited further suggestions for the web site;
 - Coastal Transition fund: regrettably there seemed to be an impasse.
8. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th February**

ACTION POINTS

Jane: engage with Gardening Club;

Follow up on recycling discussion.

Julie: revise Work Programme.

Andrew: co-ordinate working parties.

Parish Council: request to enter South West in Bloom in 2025;

Request for funding of hire of library meeting room for the Environment Exchange: 9 x £7 = £63

All: to note/attend: planting working parties on 21st December and 25th January and Environment Exchanges on 14th December, 11th January and 8th February and beyond. Comment to Jane on how the web site could be enhanced.

