

THE HORSLEYS C.A.N. (CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK) GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024, 9.30am, Rubin Room WHVH

1. Welcome to those attending:

Catherine Young (Chair), Pip Davis, Sara Dean, Paul Dodgson, Adrian Groenewald (Minutes), Jane Howard, Chris Jany, Juliet Robinson, Gerry Robins, Sarah Parker, Penny Whitlock, Carol Wilson.

A particular welcome was extended to Paul Dodgson (attending for the first time on behalf of WHPC and also as Chairman of U3A) and to Gerry Robins (attending on behalf of Grace & Flavour).

2. Apologies for absence

Received from: Yendle Barwise, Mel Beynon, Claire Brown, Antony Etwell, Christina Harris, Sylvia Igglesden, Carole Mattock, Roy Proctor, Alex Veys.

3. Grace & Flavour update

Members agreed to bring this item forward from its original position in the agenda.

Gerry Robins, Chairman of Grace & Flavour Community Garden, was welcomed to the meeting. Gerry briefly outlined the history of the organisation, and how it turned a derelict walled garden area owned by the National Trust into a thriving garden which grows fruit and vegetables for members, but also for local people who would usually struggle to access fresh produce through the "tithing" scheme, and occasionally for general purchase when there is a surplus. The overall purpose is to allow members the opportunity to socialise whilst staying active, enjoying the outdoors, and learning more about the process of growing produce for consumption. Members of all ages are welcomed, including students undertaking the DofE award.

Gerry explained the environmentally friendly measures G&F takes in its activities. Choosing locally grown and, importantly, seasonal produce reduces members' carbon footprint due to lower food miles, but they also do not use energy intensive and polluting artificial fertilizers, only replace tools and equipment when they actually break down, and the actual site has no electricity/heating. G&F is also wildlife friendly with bird boxes and a pond which provides a habitat for many different creatures.

Gerry also acknowledged the areas for improvement. Plastic sheets used as weed suppressants could be replaced with ones made from organic material, but these would be costly and would not last as long. A rainwater capture system could also be implemented but would require significant capital. Catherine and Juliet mentioned that funding for such a project could perhaps be applied for from Surrey County Council- Your Fund Surrey or Dennis

Booth's member funds. To be certified organic, manure from an organic farm would have to be used- but this would come from a source further away requiring transport.

Finally, Gerry invited members to consider the question: *is the G&F project more environmentally sustainable than if the site had simply been left derelict as it was previously?* The general consensus was, even if G&F represents a carbon footprint (which would be difficult to determine exactly), the social positives from the scheme outweigh this as an important pillar in the community, as recognised at the WHPC Community Awards, and it is clear the group does their best to reduce their impact and of course it encourages people to consider the sources of their food and the time and effort it takes to grow it.

Gerry was thanked for his contribution to the meeting.

4. Actions Update

The minutes of the May meeting were approved and the following updates received:

- **WHYC:** has a new member who has an interest in the environment and will likely lead on climate change-related initiatives.
- **St Martin's:** No update.
- **St Mary's:** wildlife photography challenge pilot for church members has begun.
- **WHP:** is holding a Nature Day on the 14th September. Youth Councillors to attend Estate Tour on 18th June to learn more about biodiversity & sustainable management plan.
- **Repair Café:** first event will be held 6th July at the Canterbury Rooms, and going forward will be on the first Saturday of each month, offering mechanical, textile, and electrical repairs.
- **Blue Hearts:** West Horsley sites have been approved, paid for, received and decorated so will be installed soon. East Horsley to follow once SCC has approved certain sites.
- **WHVH Energy Audit:** underway.
- **Active Travel:** Catherine will be attending a meeting in her GBC Councillor capacity soon with the LCWIP team; funding will soon be available for additional bus services.
- **Events:** Catherine to ask Alistair Young, River Wey Trust, to give a talk on the 9th July entitled "What's in our Water?" at WHVH. More details to be arranged ASAP. Provisionally, September will be on the subject of food and March 2025 on wildlife.

5. Social Media

This item to be deferred to next meeting due to absences.

6. AOB

None.

Next meeting: Monday 1st July 7.30pm, Agnes Conisbee Room, East Horsley Village Hall