

Minutes of Zoom Meeting, October 16th 2024

1. Welcome to those attending:

Catherine Young (Chair), Carol Wilson, Sylvia Igglesden, Juliet Robinson, Chris Jany, Yendle Barwise, Jane Howard, Mel Beynon.

2. Apologies received from:

Carole Mattock, Paul Dodgson, Penny Whitlock, Sylvia Taylor, Pip Davis, Chris Harris, Alex Veys, Sara Dean, Claire Brown, Rachel Holloway, WHPC Youth Council.

3. Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted by all present.

4. Update from West Horsley Place: Yendle updated the meeting on activity at West Horsley Place. See notes attached below.

5. Next Event

'What's in our Waterways' talk by River Wey Trust – confirmed Thursday 24th October WHVillage Hall 7.30pm.

Carole met with speaker last Saturday to confirm the details of the presentation.

Robin will be doing refreshments and the tech covered by AE (subsequently done by Charles Hope).

Discussion around the ability to test local samples. Request to put out the event on all available social media, e.g. Horsley Hub, Mum's Net etc.

It was agreed that the next planned event on Food and Drink was too close in time so should be postponed until the New Year. Date to be agreed.

6. Network Group reports

St Mary's – reported the Harvest festival. Discussion regarding the breakdown of plastic packaging.

Repair Café – gaining traction. Some discussion re changes of venue occasionally to cover West Horsley residents too. Still lots of positive feedback. Next one is Saturday November 2nd. Canterbury Rooms – Perhaps we need to ask Alex V for more advance publicity.

Next meeting: planned for 4th November **now postponed.**

Future meetings: refixed potential date 14th Nov 7.30pm

Yendle's notes

Update for Horsleys CAN, 16 Oct 2024

UK Nature Accelerator

- We are part of the UK Nature Accelerator programme, which is supporting our development of an investment case for the UK Nature Impact Fund. Our proposed project for investment will comprise grassland restoration at estate scale, with Plantlife as project partners (for ecological monitoring and compliance).
- We will engage with local communities and groups (including Horsleys CAN) on our final project proposal before submission for potential investment, although we anticipate only positive impacts on amenity value, access, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity.

Woodland Management Plan

- Our Woodland Management Plan will soon be signed off by the Forestry Commission, at which point we will begin to undertake agreed actions. Such actions will include removal of invasive non-native species (e.g. hybrid poplar, rhododendron), sensitively reducing our ash component (retaining resilient specimens where applicable) and restoring our historic 'coppice with standards' woodland.
- Visitors will notice significant changes across the estate over the coming months and years, but these changes are all for the purposes of environmental, social, and financial sustainability.

'Phase 2' water management project

- We have received funding from Surrey County Council's Flood & Climate Resilience team to support 'Phase 2' of our long-term water management project (i.e. work to continue/extend flood alleviation and wet habitat creation across the estate, as piloted in Feb 2023).
- Work to date includes meandering a previously straight ditch (to slow the flow and create new wet habitat) and removing several ash trees from the north-western corner of Lollesworth Wood (to create an access point for future woodland management).
- Remaining deliverables include further ditch management work and the restoration of an old pond in the south-west corner of the estate.

Environmental Management System

- Our CO₂e footprint for Scope 1 emissions in 2023 was slightly lower than our 2022 baseline, down from 76 tCO₂e to 75 tCO₂e
- However, our Scope 2 emissions over the same period increased from 6.5 tCO₂e to ~8 tCO₂e
- So, we've burned less oil (probably due to Robin James's improved procedures to reduce huge fluctuations (from a building conservation perspective) as well as the absence of Ghosts (perpetually open doors over winter)), but we've used more electricity (greater amount of work, longer office opening hours, greater use of electricity on evenings and weekends due to growth in our public programme of events, etc.)
- Scope 3 not yet quantified for 2023 but will presumably be greater than our 2022 baseline of 135 tCO₂e due to an increase in visitor travel, staff commuting, procurement, waste, etc.

- I would imagine that our 2024 footprint will look more like 2023 than 2022 (similar organisational size, public programme, etc.)
- Our estate sequesters roughly 330 tCO₂e each year, so we are technically still CO₂e neutral, but to abide by the philosophy of net zero we will need to reduce our emissions regardless, and our EMS has shown us that to do so we should focus on (i) our heating system, (ii) visitor travel, and (iii) procurement.

We now have designs for a ground source heat pump, but unfortunately these designs will not be enacted until/unless we are one day successful in securing funding for a capital project that would include 'onboarding' several of our outbuildings, etc.

DRAFT