

Castlemorton Environmental Group

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 7:00pm

The meeting was held in the Armitage Room.

Present:

Dawn Fisher (Chair), Don Lupton, Roger Bates, Hilary Flanders, Mike Wilkinson

Members of the public: Yvonne Milne

Apologies:

Jeremy Hubbard, Liz Ince, Sue Lupton

Actions and Agenda Items

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of 5.11.2024 were approved.

2. Financial

Held by PC £389.03, Cash £112.42, Total £501.45. Expenditure since last meeting a donation of £40 to Trees for Life.

3. Website and Publicity

Website updated to include annual report and information on the next talks.

It was agreed that we should add a link to our website when sending out messages to our mailing list.

4. Talks

All set for the talk about beavers, Dawn to bring the stuff for tea and biscuits. People attending will be offered the opportunity to attend a visit to the Forest of Dean site. Roger may be able to borrow a minibus capacity 15. Roger to check if charging for the trip (not the transport) would invalidate insurance.

The talk about building an environmentally friendly house is also set up. Three stall holders to attend: Worcester Renewables, Malvern solar and GDP Rendering. They have been advised to set up for a 7pm start with the format being to start the talk at 7:30 for about an hour, with tea and biscuits afterwards which will also give attendees the chance to talk to the specialists.

Future talks could be: Black Poplars (Mike to talk to Andy at MHT to find a suitable speaker), Flood Management (Dawn talking to Severn Rivers Trust), Mammals of the Malvern Hills (talk to Jonny Birks at flood management talk), Glowworms, Electric Cars (Don).

5. Castlemorton Churchyard

Review meeting with PCC and general public to be arranged (Mike) maybe end Feb/March. Need to agree future plan perhaps a similar area to last year, maybe add plug plants, best to cut grass on the pollinator patch April.

Reconsider composting.

Maybe get further school involvement with bird/bat boxes, growing/planting plug plants and propagating dog violets.

Review what has survived best in the area where we have planted bulbs etc. and we can target further planting next year.

Consider lifting the crowns of the Horse Chestnut trees.

6. Wildlife Camera

Hilary returned it. Lots of pictures of Muntjac taken.

7. Black Poplars

There was a lot of discussion about the black poplar project and considerable interest has been shown. The approach agreed is:

- a) to offer truncheons and cuttings to grow on of the local clone cuttings this winter, ensuring the recipients are aware of the needs and future size of the trees.
- b) Arrange a talk soon so that interested parties can be fully informed and get involved.
- c) Next winter aim to distribute truncheons or cuttings from outside the local genome to increase future biodiversity.

It was also agreed to ask the Hanley Swan group to get involved and maybe set up a working party. Meeting to be booked for 5th February and Mike to write invitation to Hanley and set agenda.

8. Colwall Greener Event

Hilary and Dawn attended and reported a good day with the plastics free stall and interesting talks to attend.

9. Verge Management

Liz reported it is quite straightforward to get a license to sow wild flowers on the verge.

10. Photo Competition

It was agreed that we have enough to do without this at this time and to postpone the initiative unless a champion from outside the committee can be found.

11. Mini Ponds and School Involvement.

Hilary has had a positive reaction from Amanda and it was agreed we would support the idea with containers, plants, gravel and logs/sticks and even some mud to get things going. It was agreed that most of the stuff would be free and recycled but we are happy to purchase items where needed e.g. gravel.

12. Any Other Business

Don reported his successful application for GRH6 meadow funding and plans to cut green hay and spread it to increase biodiversity.

13. Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th March 7pm Armitage Room

DML 16/1/25