

Greener Hassocks & Ditchling AGM 21 November 2024

Green Room Adastra Hall

Meeting Chair: Justine Rowan

Apologies: Jo Gilar, Belinda Gordon, John Willis, Ben Fitzsimmons

Approximately 25 attendees in addition to the committee.

1. Current Committee members approved to continue:
 1. John Willis (Treasurer)
 2. Kat Wood (Secretary)
 3. Jo Gilar
 4. Alistair Whitby
 5. Rachel Swabey
 6. Justine Rowan
 7. Katrina Wilson
 8. Ben Fitzsimmons
 9. Bethan Davies
 10. Belinda Gordon
 11. Andy Hanson
 12. Annabel Alder
2. Additional Committee member approved: Diana Penly
3. Justine provided an overview of activities from the last year. Funding was successfully awarded by Hassocks Parish Council and Transition Town Network to fund specific activities:
 - Hassocks Parish Council funding has been used to:
 - Update the website which is due to be launched in the next couple of weeks. The updated website will:
 - Be easier to use
 - Provide clear information about events and groups
 - Provide clear information about how to get involved
 - The HPC money has also been used to set up the monthly climate hub meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Proper cafe. These have included discussions on a number of topics and with external speakers and have been very successful
 - Transition Town Network funding has been used to:
 - Research the Library of Things concept, explore different models and talk to local groups such as Haywards Heath & Lewes. The current thinking is to link with Burgess Hill for a Larry of things to pool resources and increase the scope of items that would be available
 - Hold events, such as the very successful Party at the Patch. This event was held at the community veg patch and had a variety of activities for children as well as music and drinks. It was very well attended and is at the core of the objectives of the group which is to create community opportunities
 - Run Climate Cafe meetings to facilitate safe discussion with others and to help address climate anxiety and talk about peoples concerns. Upcoming events will include a parents meeting to help parents with tools to help young people with climate anxiety
 - In addition the existing groups continue to continue with their great work:
 - Floods & Suds - working to address floods/ streams
 - Community Veg Patch - behind Help the Aged in Hassocks
 - Ditchling Village Orchard - Boddingtons lane
 - Repair cafe at Hassocks village market
 - Outreach - involvement in Parish events
 - The steering group have a team building day booked for 17th Jan and will look at plans for next year.
 - Initial ideas are to maybe run a transport month and a biodiversity month, but if anyone has any ideas please get in touch.
4. Treasurers report - see attached summary of accounts which will be externally reviewed before being finally signed off.

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- In summary there is a surplus of £1052 as opposed to a deficit last year of £227. This is due to the funding from HPC and TTN and in addition when the group have organised events etc some services have been provided free of charge.
- Ditchling Orchard rainwater system was more expensive than anticipated but Apple Day has covered the additional cost
- Repair cafe has lower donations than last year but are still comfortably covering costs

5. AOB

Questions from the audience:

- How does the group measure success? Justine explained as a grassroots group that are trying to create awareness and a sense of community it is hard to quantify/ measure success. However successful events such as the Party in the Patch & good attendance at the climate hub meetings are indicators that the group is being effective.
- Does Greener H&D want to be involved with the Ditchling Nature Space group looking after the land between Hassocks & Ditchling? There have been some emails exchanged and there is some detail due in the next newsletter. However if anyone wants to get involved please get in touch.

The meeting then closed and the Group watched the film 'Six Inches of Soil'.

**Greener Hassocks & Ditchling
Statement of Funds at 31 July 2024**

CURRENT FUNDS	£
Balance brought forward on 1st August 2023	2,768.83
Surplus for the year (see page 2)	1,052.36
Balance carried forward at 31st July 2024	3,821.19

Represented by	
Petty cash	565.47
Cooperative Bank Community Directplus account	3,255.72
	3,821.19

Breakdown of funds at 31 July 2024	Funds at 31 July 2024	Funds at 31 July 2023
Ditchling Orchard Fund	-49.71	922.44
Repair Café	2,301.06	1,670.22
Floods & SUDS	78.00	78.00
HKD Transition / Greener Hassocks & Ditchling	1,491.84	98.17
	3,821.19	2,768.83

Prepared by.....
John Willis - Treasurer, Greener Hassocks & Ditchling

3rd November 2024