

Graveley Environment Group AGM

30 January 2024

Notes of meeting

1. Present:
Fiona Hutton FH
Helen Lumley HL
Janet Firth JF
Members of the Graveley community
No apologies received..
2. The notes of the previous AGM were reviewed and agreed as an accurate record.
3. Election of Officers

Office	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Fiona Hutton	Marion Bracey	Helen Lumley
Treasurer	Helen Lumley	Janet Firth	Fiona Hutton
Secretary	Janet Firth	Greg Hutton	Marion Bracey

4. A summary of income and expenditure had been prepared and was presented by HL. The balance as at the date of the meeting was £1310.91. HL asked those present to check the accounts against the GEG bank statement. During the financial year expenditure had been on geraniums for the central reservation (£260.00) plus compost (£16.00). The funds have been boosted by £400 - a successful bid to Miller Homes Community Fund. This has to be spent by the end of June 2024 (before which date the geraniums for the central reservations can be paid for). Thanks to Peter Bracey for bringing the funding to the Group's attention. Accounts to be published as usual.
5. Activities during 2023
Pond maintenance. Members of the group did work to remove some regrowth of the reeds.
Central reservations. Weeding and planting work was carried out by the members of the Group. MB also helped greatly by again, bringing water to the centre of the village for the central reservations. One of the Rosa Rugosas planted last year appears to have died but others have grown a little.
Plastic boxes for walks leaflets There are still plenty of leaflets available. Danielle Galvan and HL have a supply and keep the leaflet boxes on

Church Lane and Pondside stocked up. They also keep the information boards clean.

Pump in Oak Lane. MB tidied the area.

6. Plans for 2024

Central Reservations The central reservations will require weeding in the spring. The Group will review the extent of the weeding that needs doing at the end of April and if it is extensive, volunteers from the village will be invited to help out. Central reservations to be composted and planted to include annual geraniums, herbaceous geraniums and any other suitable plants donated by the residents later in the spring. HL /FH to purchase rose feed for the Rugosas and other roses. More spring bulbs to be purchased (ordered before end June). They do not seem to last very long in the poor soil of the central reservations.

Pond maintenance Reed regrowth clearance will again be necessary. HL to initiate this when required. During the year Liz Felstead offered to help this year with pond maintenance activity.

Plastic Boxes for walks leaflets –As before.

Pump in Oak Lane. As before. All members of the group (and GH) to monitor condition and initiate any tidying required.

Small pond. GH told the group that from 2020 and for about two weeks in the summer every year, there is a foul smell emanating from the pond and an accompanying blackening of the water. HL had managed to secure a visit from the head of Herts Countryside Management Service who diagnosed that it was due to the many oxygenating plants, all of the same species, collapsing and then rotting at the same time. The shadiness of the pond and the fact that it is effectively a monoculture are key contributors. He therefore recommended the introduction of other plants such as native waterlilies, (carefully chosen) native leafy pond plants and other pond weeds. HL and FH to investigate further. There would have to be some protection for waterlilies from the ducks so, given the depth of the pond, a platform for them to stand on and a cage like structure would be necessary. Some financial support could be provided from GEG funds for a trial in the first instance.

Village Hall FH had been approached by the village hall committee for the GEG's help with redesigning the area in front of the village hall and with subsequent maintenance, watering and weeding, including the border at the side of the hall. It was agreed that all to visit the hall and make an assessment of the work required and determine options to be further discussed with the committee, including the associated financing. There was no further business.