



CAG- minutes – Wednesday 22nd October at 6pm

-foyer of the Eco Hub

Group attendance members: Peter Condon, Nicola Jenkins, Kirstin Rayner, Kate Laugharne, Miriam Foster (Chair), Mark Fitzpatrick (Swifts programme), Rebecca Neal (WT)

1. Welcome, and volunteer chair for this meeting- Miriam. Apologies from Emma, Molly and Livvy, Hilary, Raff, and Vanessa
2. Minutes of the meeting Weds 3rd September and issues arising- Noted- minutes are fine
3. Events 2025

a) Village Show- feedback

MF- collected some names of residents interested in a swift box. Tent a bit small and noisy environment- difficult to talk to people. Ask for reposition next year. Miriam- 2 residents interested in Wildlife Gardening. NJ gave out about 8 leaflets. Many thanks to Emma and family for setting up the stall- much appreciated. Needed clearer larger signage who we are on the front of the tent, and that we are not selling anything.... think about this more next year. Charmian doing similar stall- ask to liaise future year so we don't do the same thing!

Discussed relations with GVP- and lack of Climate Action Plan- help-RN has tried to co-ordinate/help but no clarity/take up/lack of priority-Nature Schools/PECT offer to deliver may be suitable. KR to consider further action.

b) Any other events

- i) Wildlife Gardening Support- update ELG provided update via email- WGS now on PC climate action website page. Discussed whether consideration of open gardens-old scheme-NJ to encourage restart of this in Hatley. Miriam happy to visit gardens to assess awards. Project launch officially awaiting the outcome of 2 grant funding applications. Main theme for 2026. Update from ELG on MBM and maintenance circulated to the group.
- ii) River water monitoring-PC- monthly monitoring going well- 3 volunteers, more welcome. Report to Ruth/Chloe/IDB St Ivel.
- iii) Scything workgroup-report-PC end of season gathering to review and discuss-meeting may be in Gamlingay-tba. Consider actions /planning for next year. PC to write article for Gazette on scything in Feb/March edition. Need photo of goats grazing on Lower Field if possible. Any photos need to check permissions before publishing.
- iv) Swift support-M F- welcomed to group- has good news awarded £1403 for swift project around the Emplins- nest boxes -targeting properties. Need to contact Merton college about their properties and new owners of the Emplins. Also Almshouse charity. Consider Poppy fields estate- alternative as conservation



area/listed buildings restrictions may make scheme more difficult to deliver. May be scope at the back of Church Hall. Clerk arrange contact with Merton College- other issues which also relate to their estate-could benefit from a site visit/meeting. Additional plan for installation in Church Tower- separate project MF will pursue with PCC/Hilary. MF asked to write an article to go in December gazette re swifts and grant- future plans/review of the year (Swift breakfast etc). Suggested PC raise this at EOS with Scythers'- 'Swifts and scything'-joint initiative with Haslingfield?

- v) Next Repair Café? Next March- ELG planning- Kate happy to assist/take on if needed. Volunteering/support- please consider next meeting.

c) Parish Council

- i) Biodiversity Audit- further consultation and mapping- article. KR advised clarity on who is writing article needs resolution- also maps need to be done-visualisation important for consultation (KR to action). NJ reported that Hatley PC have agreed that clerk prepare a list of possible biodiversity objectives for the council to consider for 2026. NJ commended for liaison and reporting on issues between CAG and HPC . Article may be delayed further.
- ii) Old Methodist Chapel- software monitoring-kW use -KR reported that kW savings are apparent in the autumn based on previous years and will be monitoring using phone app and usage through bills. Potentially could be cutting energy usage/costs by half. Further reports will be made when more data becomes available. Winter with lower solar gain will be interesting.
- iii) Shade- The Butts Play area- tree and shrub planting (bank) Project to plant a tree in the Butts which will eventually provide shade for parents in a few years' time- looking at wild cherry/rowan. Soil conditions limit choice of tree type. Also bank planting part of scheme- removal of stinging nettles and replacement with dead nettle, wild strawberries/potential ground cover heather etc options. Potential grant application project.

4. Publicity and promotion-

Discussed Gazette articles for next 6 months- Mark- Swifts-December-, Jan/February Wildlife Garden plaques- launch ELG/Miriam, March Repair Café-ELG/KL, April- Scything PC, by May - Biodiversity Audit -if not before-KR/GW/ELG.

- a) SCDC- Climate Action Conference 17th October- report of relevant issues article?

Relevant items- response to Climate Action survey, butterfly banks- another potential funding project for the butterfly field (bottom of St Marys Field Cemetery)- ELG to



discuss at future meeting. Elms- info gathering on Gamlingay Elms/possible identification and seedling development? RN- suggested collecting elm leaves asap so ID could take place before winter.

KR also attended Cambridgeshire LAEP (Local Action energy plan consultation) very concerned that we are in an area of significant energy deficit- need to discuss further at a future meeting what the implications are/ how we can work with others on this.

- b) Facebook posts- Miriam putting up regular posts- to continue
- c) Any other items- Project and theme review -2026- Agreed that Wildlife Gardening be the major project for 2026- launch dependent on securing grant funding for the plaques.

NJ- few items to pursue with KL/discussed with KR. Botanic Garden Cambridge offering free entry to community groups- if you want CAG to arrange, please advise interest. RN- job role has changed -now can support community groups and provide training on how to do nature walks/ offer support for free, unless it is a specific event- charging then applies. RN able to attend future meetings especially in winter- if there is a specific project that want to discuss. (Bioblitz support example of how can support groups going forward).

MF (Swifts) unable to attend next meeting due to a tutorial.

- d) Closure of meeting- next meeting Weds 3rd December- 6pm in the Eco Hub foyer

Meeting closed 7.05pm

23-10-25- KR