

Charmouth Parish Council

Environment Group

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 16th August 2022

Present: Cllr Jane Bremner (Chair), Katy Tunstall, Ivor Clist, Paul Warren, Cllr Peter Noel, Cllr Andrew Lightfoot.

Apologies: Cllr Julie Leah, John Smith

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the volunteers attending for the first time, and introductions were made.
2. **Terms of reference:** for the benefit of the volunteers, Jane ran through the remit for this Group and the membership provisions. It was noted that two members of the public could be included plus other co-options for specific projects. (**Post meeting note:** Paul Warren has declined to take up membership).
3. **Environment Day:** a draft agenda had been circulated for this event planned for Saturday 1st October. Assistance on the day with the logistics was requested and 'spreading the word' about the event was encouraged.
4. **South West in Bloom:** Jane gave a resume of the judges' visit and the preparations which had been made. Engagement with a number of organisations in the village was welcomed. It was agreed to arrange a meeting for Tuesday 18th October when representatives of local organisations and volunteers would be invited to review the judges' comments and plan for 2023. The volunteers present encouraged more tree planting and a willingness to do practical things rather than paperwork!
5. **Watering of young trees:** Andrew explained that he and Julie had been watering the Queen's Green Canopy weekly during the hot weather but a third to a half of the trees had died; some replacements were available to be planted when conditions improved. It was agreed to recommend to the Playing Field Committee provision of some extra equipment to facilitate easier watering arrangements which could be undertaken by the Scouts. This would entail a trolley, suitable water containers and positioning of a large water butt by the bowling green pavilion.

6. **Tree protection in the village:** following the loss of some trees, it was agreed to promote greater awareness of the importance of trees and those which were especially beneficial in the village landscape. In the first instance, the current protection of trees was to be established.
7. **A35 verges:** Andrew outlined the arrangements designed to improve the biodiversity of the verges along the by-pass and concerns regarding ragwort. (**Post meeting note:** the following day, an update was circulated regarding the Highway Agency's account of their contractor's activity.)
8. **Information plaques:** it was agreed that a comprehensive review of the information plaques in the village was desirable and this would be followed up with the Playing Fields and Foreshore Committees.
9. **2030 Vision:** the Parish Council had been invited to participate in an exercise designed to frame a vision for Lyme Regis, Uplyme and Charmouth to be achieved by 2030 which is being led by Lyme Regis Development Trust. It was agreed to recommend that we did not actively engage since: a. Charmouth has the Neighbourhood Plan expressing a vision to 2035; b. there were not especially strong links with the other communities, especially Uplyme which is in East Devon; c. leadership being provided by the new Green Party Dorset Councillor compromised the 'neutrality' of the approach; d. we have quite enough meetings and activity within the village to keep us all occupied! Naturally, we would be willing to respond if there were specific initiatives proposed which could benefit the village.
10. **Notes of meeting held on 31st May:** noted
11. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 11th October at 7pm.