SYLVANIA ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PROJECT
COMMITTEE MEETING

5th February 2014

Present: Gareth, Susanne, Thelma, Pat, Sue, Paul.
Apologies: Suzie

Terry Monk, representative from Plassey Close is no longer interested in being a member of the SECP committee.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising: planting day was well attended in the morning but not in the afternoon. The trees were not ready to be planted so will be planted at next planting weekend.

Grants: £1,500 received from Percy Prowse on behalf of the Devon County Council. £300 received from Exeter City Council. There are no grant applications outstanding.

Finance report: Business reserve account £650.92
Business current account £350.36
Cash from shop collecting box £ 74.49
Total £1075.77

Current issues:
• Oak trees – there will be an audit in the Spring when the general Open Space audit takes place. It was discussed whether as there is a preservation order on them would ECC have to complete the audit? We need Paul Faulkner to carry out the survey before the leaves appear on the trees. It is believed that there is a group preservation order on the oak trees. After the audit Gareth will inform the Charitable Trust.
• Stream – according to the Environment Agency the border is on the Sheppard Road side of the stream from the culvert down meaning that the stream falls within the Communal Land, Gareth will investigate this.
• Signage – Ivybridge Community College are not able to produce another sign without a charge, as ECC gave us the grant of £300 specifically for the sign we will go ahead and order another sign for the other end of the path. To ask
Waitrose for sponsorship towards the full cost – Gareth to arrange.

- Your Neighbourhood Community Scheme – we have been approached again this year to submit an entry, the general feeling of the group was that this isn’t relevant to our project – Gareth to reply to Sue Lawrence.
- Rethinking Parks & Open Spaces Event 26th February 6-9pm – Gareth, Susanne, Pat & Thelma to attend.
- Committee member for Plassey Close – there is a resident from Plassey who has been to a couple of our work days – Gareth to approach him.

**Plans for Planting Weekend** 22nd/23rd February mornings only
- Plant mature trees
- Plant hedging whips
- Plant wild flower plugs
- General tidy up
- Remove overhanging branch in car par, Linnet Close
- Make bird boxes
- Create insect habitat

Susanne has identified areas to be worked on. Trees being delivered on the Friday, help will be required to move the large trees to Plassey Close. Waitrose aren’t sure they will be able to provide any help this time. Emily will come along to help even though these aren’t her trees. Susanne has contacted Bryony at Exeter University & she will put a piece in the next newsletter asking for volunteers. Gareth & his son-in-law are going to clear the branches that have fallen across the stream.

**Ways forward** – Plans for 2014/15 will arise from Paul Faulkner’s survey of the area. The stream needs clearing – should we pay someone to do this work we may be able to get a grant for the work. Grass area in Linnet Close & Plassey Close will need regular cutting. Public meeting in Spring – the committee decided to try holding this meeting on a Saturday morning and possibly making it a social event such as a coffee morning, Susanne has created a pictorial history of the work carried out which will be on show at the meeting. Possible date 26th April at 10am, Susanne to contact Suzie to book the hall.
We have been operating now for 3 years should we prepare a questionnaire for circulation to residents?
Suggestion that we provide more activities for the children such as butterfly & bird watching, identifying wild flowers, dawn chorus. Devon wildlife will run activities for children.

Next meeting 25th March 2014 at Gareth’s 47, Sheppard Road @ 7pm.