Sylvania Environment and Community Project Committee Meeting

5th February 2013

Present: Gareth, Susanne, Pat, Sue.

Apologies: Paul, Suzi, Thelma.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Matters arising – none

Grants Update: ECC have given SECP another grant for £300 for planting.
DCC have made a grant of £2,500 for clearing ground
Waitrose have made a grant of £500 for slightly larger trees to be planted in March.

Finance Report: BUSINESS CURRENT ACCOUNT £782.67
BUSINESS RESERVE £2530.49

I transferred £2000 from the Current a/c to the Reserve a/c on 01/02/2013

I haven't been able to do transfers before as I had to set up a Letter of Authority for 2 signatories to be able to make transfers between accounts. Now up and running.

No cheque from the charitable trust yet. Paul is chasing the £500 promised last year.
Gareth to write and ask for another contribution for this year towards the planting and to re-iterate that we do not accept liability.

Current Issues: 14 Plassey Close – Paul Howe has waxed the vandalised tree where the bark was removed, it is hoped that the tree will survive, at present there is no need to remove it. Sadly we have to pay out of our precious resources for this work. The house owner has been informed that it will be necessary for the tree surgeon to do some remedial work on the tree later in the year and he will require access to her garden.

23 Shepard Road – the owner has had the work on the tree carried out herself.

Valley Park Community Project – this is the open space at the end of the stream path, there is a small copse there that needs attention, a resident of Mayflower Avenue has approached ECC who own the land and Cllr. Jake Donovan suggested they contact us for help. Gareth met with him and shared all the wisdom we
have gained through setting up SECP and shared our Constitution with him, he has decided to “go it alone”.

**Plassey Close Issues** - we do not see anything of residents of Plassey Close to offer help. Last year Paul Howe quoted £500 to clear the area in Plassey Close. Focus of the next planting will be in Plassey Close – hopefully we might engage their interest through our activity.

**Express & Echo Community Grant** – Gareth has made an application for funds, we now have to wait and see if we are one of the 43 groups chosen, E&E readers then vote for their favourite and monies are allocated accordingly.

**Open Spaces Society Award** – Paul Faulkner suggested we apply, we may not get monies but recognition for our work.

**Plans for Planting Weekend** – as it’s Mothering Sunday we will only plant on the Saturday. Would like to make bat boxes but can’t find a leader. Gareth will look at whether he can take the lead.

Saturday planting, 10am – 4pm, Waitrose will be involved, they will be helping to plant the trees they are donating.

Woodland Trust will provide more whips to plant in **Area G**.

2 standard trees in **Area H**
2 standard trees in **Area B**
Standard trees for the other side of the stream.
Seeds for **Areas G & H** and **Plassey Close**.
Standard trees for the area between **Areas L & M**.
To meet at 10am beside the footpath, **Areas H & G**.

Susanne will liaise with Suzi about advertising the planting day.
Suzi to get posters & leaflets to us by 25th February, to be delivered by 1st March.

We need to have a public meeting beforehand suggest 5th March if hut available.

**Way Forward:** **Signage** – Paul Faulkner suggests we have notices about dumping rubbish. Suggested wording –

**Sylvania Environment and Community Project**

“**THIS AREA IS MANAGED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL, PLEASE LOOK AFTER IT**”

Gareth will organise this.

A Plaque is also required for our Jubilee Tree.

**Work to be completed:** **Area O** brambles & dead tree to be removed. Paul Howe has quoted £250.
**Areas N & R** the brambles and trees over the stream.
Area K needs clearing for planting in the Autumn. It needs to be carried out before the growing season starts. It was agreed to ask Paul Howe to carry this work out asap it will cost between £2500 and £3000.

Any Other Business:
Can we put events on our website in the form of a diary? Gareth suggested that Susanne email the information to Dave and he can put it on the website. Pat & her husband contacted Percy Prowse & Jake Donovan about the state of the property next door to their house. A letter has been sent to the owner asking if it can be kept tidier. They have also asked environmental health to look at the state of the garden.

Next meeting Tuesday 16th April 2013, 7pm @ 17 Linnet Close

Next Public meeting Tuesday 5th March 2013, 7.30pm in the Community Hut.