

STWN Minutes
Friday 24th April 2026 3pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Liz Ramsay, Trefor Hogg, Anne Richards, Sue Henderson, Sally Pemberton, Sam Village, Patricia Brookwick

Apologies:

Charlie Knowles, Elaine Griffith

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting:

Approved

Chairman's Report

- Trefor discussed issues affecting tree planting in Runnymede. The problems are not related to SCC but to Runnymede Council as they had recently denied the planting of trees and hedges in the borough. Tree planting has been delayed due to the forthcoming elections and it is hoped that a new plan can be arranged for the 2026/2027 year once the May 7th elections are over. Trefor to monitor and feedback any further details. TH
- So far SCC have planted approximately 720,000 trees from the 1.2 million originally pledged. It remains uncertain regarding the adoption of any tree planting strategy for the newly formed, and yet to be active, West and East Surrey split. We will know more post May 2027. SCC are continuing to plant trees until April 2027.
- STWN will continue in its current form to support tree wardens in the soon to be formed West and East Surrey districts.
- There is yet to be an election for a Mayor to cover the new areas along with budget discussions and any grant money that may be made available to councillors.
- The STWN statutory documents were discussed – Trefor has the previously reviewed documents on hand and will progress them further post local elections. If any committee member would like to add further comments to the Financial Controls, H&S and Risk Management policies then please contact Trefor directly. TH
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has provided for additional protection of ancient and woodland trees but there are moves in place to remove further areas of Green Belt and AONB. Golf courses can now be considered to be brown land.
- Sam mentioned that TTC had provided representations concerning the NPPF concerning the protection of important ancient woodlands and trees.
- Liz felt that in due course a letter should be written on behalf of the STWN to the newly formed council regarding the setting and importance of a sound tree policy framework

Secretary's Report

- Patricia confirmed that she and Sue had been in contact with all members requesting that they confirm their wish to remain as a STWN Tree Warden on the STWN Database. To date only 85 positive responses have been received. It was decided that a further email be sent to those who have not yet responded, providing a FINAL opportunity to remain on our database. Patricia will create a draft for approval before issuing it to members. Once the final numbers are in Patricia and Sue will meet to confirm the final list of members. PB

- It was decided that we will use the 'Trees of Britain & Ireland' book by Jon Stokes as a way to engage with Scout & Guide groups. The engagement could also act as an opportunity for these organisations to volunteer in forthcoming tree planting projects, recording of ancient trees, Duke of Edinburgh etc. **ALL**
- New materials from TTC may soon be made available to us. A flag and banner may be provided for us to use later in the year. **SV**
- A plaque to accompany the tree to be planted later this year in memory of Dave Pope is to be ordered. This will be after consultation with his wife Andrea concerning the wording. **PB/SP**
- Sam provided the link for ordering the waterproof 'Please water Me' signs from the Arb Association for new trees. This link is to be shared with our members. **PB**

Treasurer's Report

- The treasurer was absent from the meeting – the Treasurer's Report is attached. There were no comments concerning it.
- This year's Tree Warden Membership Fee will be reduced to £100 from £250 in order to help us build our funds. We are most grateful to TTC as we try to increase our reserves.

Membership Secretary's Report

- SH reported that 4 new members have registered with the Network since the last meeting.
- Five Tree Warden Volunteer vests were recently sent to Spelthorne, there are appx. 10 left.
- Sue has a new source in place for the return of ink cartridges so please continue to collect them for her.

Communications

Newsletter

- The next newsletter will be issued before TTC summer meeting at Sheffield Park on Saturday 11th July **LR**
- A call to be issued to members for local news. **PB**
- Website donations – Elaine and Patricia to meet to discuss further. **EG/PB**

Events

- The Wisley visit was a great success and Liz & Elaine were thanked for their efforts in organising this.
- South East Forum – Saturday 11th July at Sheffield Park.
- Date for AGM to be confirmed at our next meeting.
 - Liz to see if our Wisley Host might agree to speaking at it. **LR**
 - Sam mentioned that a member of TTC may be able to attend depending on the date
- Training:
 - Biology completed
 - New Member Induction Course – target new members **PB**
 - Threats – Friday 19th June **TH**
 - Hedgerows – TBC **EG**

AOB – None

Date of next meeting: Friday 12th June at 2.30pm - Sue Henderson's Home