

STWN Minutes
Friday 30th May 2025 2.00pm
Ewhurst

Present:

Trefor Hogg, Anne Richards, Sue Henderson, Patricia Brookwick, Sally Pemberton, Elaine Griffith

Apologies:

Liz Ramsay

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting:

Approved

Chairman's Report

1. Councilor Richard Tear has agreed to help with insurance costs
2. I haven't been able to arrange SCC as a venue for the AGM as yet. We will give this until early June to see if a venue can be confirmed – if not we will go with plan B which is for the Nutley Tree Warden group to host the AGM. **The AGM will be held in September 2025 – date tbc as soon as we are able to confirm the venue.**
3. Surrey County Council are now reporting that planting of new trees in Surrey has passed the 700,000 trees mark <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj9e9y48k1vo> Tree give aways and street planting are continuing for this year. Tree orders are closed now for 2025.
4. In recent weeks I have toured two hospitals, a community diagnostic centre and a social care home plus talked about the design of another hospital. In every case trees / planting and the need to make them visible to patients has been talked about/ made an integral part of the design because of their positive effects on recovery/ health.
5. Silverwood the SABP adult mental health facility now has trees planted thanks to conversations I had with them regarding grant/ tree givers and introducing them to [NHS Forest..](#)
6. Concerns grow about the current government and their views on biodiversity.
 - a. The new Planning Bill removes biodiversity protections from smaller developments, removes opportunities for objections and removes councilor input from many decisions. For larger developments it makes offsetting more likely by giving developers the opportunity to pay into a national nature fund instead of having to find local biodiversity improvement opportunities.
 - b. Subsidies to farmers for farming practices that support biodiversity are being removed

Secretary's Report

- Our STWN database requires some housekeeping. Sue has provided an update of the Membership Spreadsheet. PB will draft an email to Members asking if they are still active Members. The email will be issued twice and then followed through with a text or call if a reply has not been received. PB
- SCC continue to water the street trees planted last year – this should happen once every two weeks.
- With tree planting for the season completed SCC are now addressing the removal of tree stumps.
- Surrey Wildlife Trust has started to petition central government regarding concerns over new planning legislation. They say that the UK Government promised to protect and restore nature. But less than a year in, new planning changes are set to weaken environmental protections for developments, like housebuilding. This is bad for wildlife and for people. They have tried to work with Ministers to highlight gaps for nature in the new Planning and Infrastructure Bill, yet at every stage their efforts have been ignored. Enough is enough. Read more and sign the petition here: <https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/171483/action/1>

Treasurer's Report

- Please see attachment.
- EOY Accounts signed.
- CAF banking processes are being updated from 9th June 2025. The account will be inaccessible from 3.30pm on 6th June to 9.00am on 9th June. New links and passwords will be issued by the bank.
- EG suggested a page on the website whereby a donations page is set up with an area where bequests can be made along with a donations tab. Gift Aid to be reviewed. PB & EG to review other charitable organisations to see how they have set up their donations pages. Review at next meeting. This would ultimately result in a mini launch of the website which will also include a 'STWN Benefits to members' page. EG/PB
- The new round of funding for the Councillors Community Fund has opened. EG confirmed that she had issued emails requesting support for the Charity to all SCC Councillors. Some positive responses have already been received.

Membership Secretary's Report

- SH reported that 3 new members have registered with the Network since the last meeting. Members from Wormley, Frimley Green and Spelthorne.

Communications

- Previous minutes have been uploaded to the website.
- New STWN benefits page to include details of our offering as a charity: Insurance, Links, Contacts, Newsletters, events, Training, Volunteering Opportunities, Local Group Meets, shared Knowledge PB

Newsletter

- Liz is waiting for some dates to be confirmed before the next newsletter is issued.
- SV had previously mentioned that she would like to include some of the stories within TTC SV

Events

- **Training dates are confirmed for the rest of the year.**
 - **Law – elements of this module to be included at the AGM – possibly TPO's**
 - **Induction with Anthony & Patricia – Friday 5th September**
 - **Biology with Liz – Friday 10th October**
 - **Tree Threats with Trefor Friday 12th November**
 - **Hedgerows with Elaine – Wednesday 3rd December**
- PB to circulate dates via email to the membership, dates will also include those confirmed for the Kew tree Walk, the Wisley date and the Lingfield date. **PB**
- **Lingfield Nature Reserve Open Invitation** – hosted by the Lingfield Tree Warden group will be on 20th July 2025. Anne to provide further details to PB so that this can be communicated to Members ASAP. There will be stalls, games, bird watching and a butterfly walk along with an opportunity to view the reserve. **AR**
- **Kew Guided Tree Walk - will be on Saturday 2nd August 2025.**
 - Duration 60-90 minutes
 - Meet at Elizabeth Gate at 11am
 - Open to 20 Members only at opening stage. If places are not filled then other family members can join.
 - Entrance fee for groups is £20.30 and £18.50 for concessions.
 - We will request a £5 donation at time of booking.
 - Payment in advance via bank transfer
 - Cancellation/refunds only if we can fill the space.
 - Patricia to notify members, liaise with Jane Lewis and arrange entry **PB**
- **Wisley Visit** – will be on Saturday 1st November 2025. 9.30am for a 10am start. Location and further details tbc. **LR**
- **AGM** – Pencilled in for 20th September 2025 – venue and date tbc. Options are SCC Headquarters on Reigate Hill or with the Nutfield Tree Warden Group in Nutfield. **tbc**
 - Tree photography - ? Jon **tbc**
 - New book signing – ?Jon **tbc**
 - Paul Wood to be asked as a speaker – with his new book too **tbc**
 - TPO Law – possibly with a tree officer **tbc**
 - Walk and talk **tbc**
 - Possibly include a talk from a Forest School **tbc**
 - Start collecting bottles for the tombola **ALL**
 - Vests, cards, raffle, tombola to be available and the card reader **ALL**
- **TTC South East & South Central Forum – Revised Date**
 - The meeting will now be on Saturday **25th of October 2025** at Victoria Park, Portsmouth. Revised date to be circulated to members. **PB**
- **National Tree Week - Hedgerow Planting Activity – Saturday 22nd November 2025**
 - Lingfield – 250 whips to be planted – further details to follow. **AR**

AOB – None: The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Date of next meeting: Friday 1st August 7.00pm via Zoom

PB