

SusWoT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30pm, 27th April 2023, Village Hall

Present

Liz Viggars (Treasurer), Fran Bragg (Secretary), Mike Crabbe, Keith Yeandel, Myra Jones, Lucy Hamid

Apologies

Alex Dunn (chair), Denise Barwell, Judith Sluglett, Stephen Noreiko, David McGregor, Pam Stringer, Tracy Tainton

To contact us about any items below, please email suswot2050@gmail.com.

Welcome and Introduction

Formalities of the Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Last AGM

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the 2022 AGM.

Chair's Report

SusWoT is successful because we focus on what people want to do, ignore the things they don't and because it is enjoyable.

- Cleaning up. There are plenty of volunteer litter pickers and there are no bad sites left. There are about 30 rounds with 60 pickers in WoT, with other activity in Brentry, Henbury, Southmead, Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills.
- Phone app. SusWoT is developing a phone app in conjunction with students at Bristol University enabling people to take pictures of litter which will be uploaded by the app to a Google map, improving efficiency in dealing with it. This is also being extended to river cleaning.
- Energy. The government is aiming to increase capacity for installation of air source heat pumps to 600,000 per year by 2028. We have completed phase I of a trial project contacting house holders with suitable homes and received £4,500 for that work. We are therefore moving to phase II, looking to recruit a large number of households on the same sub-station to test grid capacity and the availability of appropriately skilled installers to do a large number of simultaneous installations. SusWoT is working with other partners in the city such as the city council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.
- Food. Growing food has always been one of SusWoT's most popular activities. Lots of tomatoes and other vegetables are grown each year for sale at the May Fair, the Get Growing Trail and the Village Show, as well as online. This helps people to grow their own very cheaply. We sell more than 1,000 plants each year and this has been our main source of income in past years. We sponsor 3 trophies at the Village Show. We also support 2 gardens in the village at the Library and the Stoke Lane Community Garden.
- Trout in the Trym. We are one of several organisations comprising Trout in the Trym and have been working to clear rubbish (fly tipping of builders rubble, motorbikes and more) and Himalayan balsam from the Trym and its tributary, the Hazel Brook. Trout have indeed been seen in the river, along with evidence of water voles and otters and water quality is improving.

Treasurer's Report

- Primary source of income has shifted from sales at fairs to grants.
- 2022 - grant for river cleaning from Bristol City Council with Trout in the Trym for equipment.
- £900 for looking for water voles and otters, surveying the environment - specifically paying ecologist and training material for SusWoT members. 15 May survey.
- Plant and juice sales at the community fair, Get Growing, village show. Also now available by email, Whatsapp etc. - started during the pandemic.
- £4,500 from phase I of heat pump ready (not in 2022 accounts). There will be further payments from phase II.

- Expenditure follows income largely. A lot of river cleaners and litter pickers including many Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. Regulars keep their own equipment and there is some held centrally.
- Printing costs for AHSP (air source heat pump). Relatively minor so far. Need a lot more leaflets to a professional quality.

Election of Officers

Chair

Alex Dunn was re-elected unanimously.

Treasurer

Liz Viggars was re-elected unanimously.

Secretary

Fran Bragg was re-elected unanimously.

Publicity officer - different aspects of this role are undertaken by several different people, technical, blogs, articles for local press. We would welcome someone who would like to take over these tasks as a single role.

Looking Forward

Current plans and new ideas for the coming year.

A discussion arose about the possibility of using grassed areas of parks for ground source heat pumps. If anyone is interested in researching this concept, please let us know. The city council has already developed a district heating system in the centre drawing heat from the river. We have had a lot of contact with local councillors lately and could raise it with them.

The air source heat pump project will be a major focus for the coming year. A sub-group is working on developing plans for this.

The two litter apps will be a step change in litter and rubbish clearing. There are a lot of ethical issues with issues such as personal data management, who owns the IP.

Date of Next Meeting

11th May - supper evening.

25th May - next meeting.

Regular meeting time: 7:30pm, last Thursday of the month, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall

Regular meal out: second Thursday of the month at a restaurant somewhere in the village. Let us know if you would like to be added to the mailing list for these events.