

**Meeting: Congleton Sustainability Group Meeting**

**Date:** 07.07.200    **Time:** 6:30 pm    **Location:** Zoom

**In attendance:** Heather Seddon, Cathy Dean, Kay Wesley, Glen Williams, Linda Aston, Peter Aston, Margaret Gartside.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></b></p> <p>Heather chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. No outstanding actions.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Peter Hall, Sharon Joynson, Alex &amp; Val Scaresbrook, Barry Fox, Lisa Hargreaves</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Accounts</u></b></p> <p>Linda ran presented the financial information, attached with these minutes.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Congleton Food 4 Free Bank Account</u></b></p> <p>There has been a split in the Congleton Food4Free group, with a new group splitting off from the original group. The Congleton Food4Free bank account held £240 in April 2022, however, there has been a dispute between the rights to the monies held between the two Food4Free Groups. Food 4 Free plants have been purchased for the new Bee Garden totalling £98, however payment from the Food4Free bank account was refused. The Food4Free bank account was set up over 10 years ago. A compromise of splitting the balance was offered to resolve the situation but this has been refused. It was agreed that Congleton Food 4 Free will in future use Congleton Sustainability Group's bank</p>	

	<p>account for payments and expenses, which the £98 has now been paid from. The original group will carry on as before with the Congleton Food4Free Facebook page and be a sub-group of CSG.</p> <p>Members of CSG in the constitution have agreed to show respect for all members of the Group. It was thought that the behaviour (of withholding payment) was not within the spirit of the group and as such a letter will be actioned regarding conduct which will not be accepted by CSG.</p>	<p><b>Heather</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Sub Group Report – Congleton Food4Free</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Planted areas: Continued to maintain (weed, feed, litter pick, prune, plant, sow) our plots and gardens.</li><li>2. The new owners of the Capitol Walk arcade asked us to remove plants we wanted from part of the garden, ready for them to install phase 1 of their decking this spring (but this has yet to be started). Phase 2 is planned for next year. We transplanted all the woody plants in late winter to the Fairground, and have been gradually moving the remaining plants to the Fairground with the help of volunteer gardeners from other groups in the town. We plan to move plants from the phase 2 area this autumn once we have completed preparing the Fairground. The roses will remain. Once the decking is completed, the owners plan to create planters for us to return some plants, giving the area the feel of sitting within a garden.</li><li>3. We also advised the new owners regarding best practice to protect the two silver birch on site from the decking work, and gave them information on timing for any pruning, plus some contacts for tree work should they wish to remove any lower branches.</li></ol>	

4. We have been working hard on the Fairground to remove bindweed and other problematic weeds that were choking the edible strip at the front and other plants further back. This is also to clear ground so we can move the remaining Capitol Walk plants here, either as a holding place or for permanent planting.

5. New area:

We have a new plot within the Just Bee (bee/wellbeing) garden in the park and have prepared the ground and planted edibles there. Mostly fruit and herbs, they include those grown from cuttings, plants held as stock in the park polytunnels, plants from Capitol Walk, and newly purchased ones from local nurseries.

6. Publicity:

Facebook interaction continued whenever there are photos, videos and news items regarding our group's activities and planted areas. See <https://www.facebook.com/CongletonFood4Free/>

7. Accounts- No-one has prepared annual accounts for 20-21. We have now lost access to the CF4F bank account and remaining funds (around £300), so will use the CSG instead to handle any future funds.

8. Volunteering hours for all members (except PP whose hours are in her monthly report to CSG)

AS: 6.5 hrs (work on the Fairground, CF4F area in the Just Bee garden)

VS: 67 hrs (work on the Fairground, CF4F area in the Just Bee garden, Cap Walk)

Total vol hrs: 73.5

6.	<p><b><u>Bee Garden</u></b></p> <p>The Just Bee Garden opening Morning – 15th July at 10 am Congleton Park</p> <p>The event is to celebrate and open the tremendous new garden we have in Congleton Park.</p> <p>Arrive – 10 am for 10.15 am start. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake after the presentation Opening by Cllr David Brown – Chairman of Congleton in Bloom and MP Fiona Bruce.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Volunteer Events</u></b></p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> August volunteers need for the Medieval Festival in the park, contact Racheal McCarthy <a href="mailto:rachel.mccarthy@congleton-tc.gov.uk">rachel.mccarthy@congleton-tc.gov.uk</a> to offer your support.</p> <p>In Bloom will be needed volunteers for the 'big clean up' before judging starts. 25<sup>th</sup> July &amp; Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Aug – time to be confirmed early evening.</p> <p>Friends of Congleton Park have concerts on Sundays during July, volunteers will be needed to set up and put them away. 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm Please contact Glen <a href="mailto:glen1971@hotmail.co.uk">glen1971@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Recycling Centre</u></b></p> <p>It is planned that Cheshire East Council Environment and Communities Committee will be considering our replacement recycling site on 4th August 2022. CSG would like to see a reuse, repair, recycle centre. Contact Robert Douglas to draft a letter with a quote from CSG.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Community Letter</u></b></p> <p>Top and tail report and use them as content for a press release. Send to local media. Patti to ask Val.</p>	Cathy

10.	<p><b><u>A.O.B</u></b></p> <p>Green Fayre taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> September, the group felt the climate week was very successful last year can that be repeated? It's a joint project between Partnership &amp; TC. The Town Council event team has a lot to organise with 750 celebrations – is it something we can take on? Discuss at the next oversight meeting.</p> <p>Be great to put the CSG groups together at the event. Cathy to speak to Rachael.</p> <p><b>Apple Juice in Glass Bottles</b></p> <p>You need to use a glass bottle 11 times to match the energy used to create it, Apple Juice bottles can be brought back to the Old Saw Mill can we have a sticker on the bottle to say 'bring me back'. Open to ideas if anyone has suggestions, aiming to do the right thing from a carbon zero point of view.</p> <p><b>Group Spotlights:</b></p> <p>September – E-learning course</p> <p>October – Apple Juice</p> <p>November – Trees</p> <p>December – Repair Café</p> <p><b>No Meeting in August – Next Meeting September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 6:30 pm – Old Saw Mill</b></p>	<b>Patti</b>
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