

**Gorgeous Gorse Hill AGM Notes 22 January 2018**

**Attendees:** Ruth Hannan, Mike Cordingley, Laurence Walsh, Marje Kelly, Mary Patel, Ian Towler, Emma Shaw-Nunez, Sandra Aguilera.

1. **Welcome & Introduction**

RH welcomed the group and introductions were made.

1. **Overview of 2017**

RH presented an overview of 2017 activities:

* Action hour, it took place most of the weeks on a different day of the week and at a different time. A total of 40 action hour took place through the year.
* Garden party: first social/funding, sourced unrestricted funding. It was well attended and a success.
* Adopt a tree pit: mixed result, some treepits were very well looked after, some people seemed to have started to tend to other tree pits which were not in the scheme.
* Marje's Park: Signs have been printed, opening day to be confirmed
* Re-painted two BT boxes: boxes had been replaced by BT, they were re painted with similar designs.
* Britain in Bloom: the project obtained Thriving award. The preparation was very demanding.
* Pocket park name competition: there were a few entries, the winner name was Pocket Paradise.
* Christmas Party and Cards: party was well attended but could have been better if the party would have taken place on a weekend, it will be noted for next time.
* New for Old: the final stage of the project took place, tree charms were added to trees in parks and in the community.

Action hours were considered very effective to maintain current sites. Challenges through the year was damage to current sites: the graffiti damage in plant pot, pocket paradise and BT box, and also the tree charms from new for all. Another challenge was the decrease in number of volunteers mainly due to people moving out of area.

Further details can be found on the AGM 2017 PowerPoint.

1. **Finances 2017**

MP presented an overview of GGH finances (see PowerPoint)  
In 2017 the funding obtained covered running costs and the adopt a tree pit project.  
Overall financial position in healthy, the spend was a little higher than the income but the final position is positive.

1. **Committee Elections**

Voting was taken for the Committee members.

MP has stepped down as Treasurer, the group thanked MP for her help.

MC nominated RH as Chair, ES-N as Treasurer and MP and SA as Secretary. Attendees seconded and approved the nominations.

MC, LW, IT, MK were approved as Committee members.

1. **Plans and Suggestions for 2018**

RH noted the big focus for 2018 is art and workshop for kids.

RH has secured permission from Virgin to paint the boxes in Gorse hill (as previously done with BT boxes) Also has secured permission to paint the 3 substations in Gorse hill (Milton Road, Avondale Road and Railway Road) It was proposed to do something similar to what was done with the BT boxes, invite schools, scouts and residents. LW to involve flat residents for the railway road substation design. Themes proposed were nature and Frances Lennon.

Workshops for kids: building on the success of craft activities for kids in the last year it was proposed to organise a number of workshops for kids to be delivered by local artists.

As always, current sites need to be maintained, Ruth will put a list of sites and dates for people to put their name down as leaders of each day.

1. **Thanks and Next Meeting**

RH thanks volunteers and supporters.

RH invited all to write blogs or create photo journals to be included in the GGH internet page. It could be related to the project or alike subject like Nature, art, etc.

**Action: RH to draw project plan for virgin boxes and substation project.**

**Action: RH to put together list of provisional meeting/activity dates.**