TWO MILE ASH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (TMAEG)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / YEAR 15 REVIEW

19th September 2026

Annual Review

Welcome and Introduction

Steve Raine welcomed everyone, outlined the content of the Annual Review and introduced the Committee members and their respective roles. He referred briefly to the TMAEG website to introduce a new tab created to allow access to pages that had been created by Chris Gossop.

Message from TMAEG Founder and current Chair Chris Gossop

Chris then gave a presentation explaining that he had taken time during the past year to reflect on his 15 years of TMAEG leadership. Though there was a huge amount he could talk about, he chose to highlight a project of particular importance; the Bluebell Circuit.

In his career Chris held a role in the Planning Inspectorate for 20 years. He dealt with some 650 appeals during that time and developed a specialism in environmental appeals, including those involving trees.

In 2011 he was surveying for new projects which ultimately led to the development of the Bluebell Circuit. It was particularly challenging due to the nature of the site, the stream and the oddly angled trees. To create a circuit meant the installation of a 13 meter (and one inch) bridge across the stream, whilst protecting trees and plants. TMAEG worked in partnership with The Parks Trust to design, construct and assemble the bridge in 2021/22. This was hard work and undertaken by a strong group. In parallel, the walking circuit around the bridge was developed in partnership with The Green Gym. This work safeguarded important trees and protected plants, particularly bluebells. The project also created a link to the Whitehouse development and crucial infrastructure for walking and cycling. Over 100 additional trees were planted, across eight species. Chris noted two of his favourites; the wild service tree and the wayfaring tree. The formal launch of the circuit took place in April 22.

Chris said he was thankful that during his time with TMAEG he had got to know many friendly people. He wished the new Committee all the very best for the future.

Projects Update

Steve Raine gave an overview of the projects undertaken in the past year. He summarised that 31 visits had taken place across 17 sites. All projects now had owners whose role was to identify when and what work should take place. Historically this had all been down to Chris Gossop. He emphasised that more project owners would be happily accepted.

Highlights included:

- Planting 400 trees in the new project area known as the Astlethorpe Corridor in partnership with Community Trees MK.
- Planting outside One Stop and the Post Office with a grant from the Parish Council.
- Purchase of new TMAEG branded hi-vis jackets for safety and promotion of the group.
- Planting 30 new trees with help from The Parks Trust.

There were two challenging areas; Kepwick 1, where new residents had unknowingly devastated earlier work and the Golf Course lane, where contractors had also wreaked havoc. Both projects are being positively addressed by communication with these third parties and we hope to keep working to improve these two areas.

Other work during the year included:

- Regular updating of the website with recent visits and of posting pictures and commentary to the Facebook Group. This was done in order to maintain visibility within the Friends of Two Mile Ash Facebook group which has c.5000 members. Membership of the TMAEG Facebook group, although small, had increased from 81 to 134 members during the year.
- Engagement of a new insurance provider, giving increased cover whilst saving over £100.

- Introduction of a new process for training on use of power tools and a risk assessment / sign-off process.
- Introduction of new non-personal email addresses e.g. tmaeginfo@gmail.com and tmaegmembership@gmail.com
- Nine Committee meetings were held.

Steve then outlined the current steps involved in running a project, which in his view had become rather unwieldy over time. Historically everything had been organised by Chris Gossop, including getting volunteers on board, creating a detailed list of work to be completed, amassing the tools and providing the refreshments. Now that Chris was stepping back Steve's aim will be to streamline the process. For example, if a small amount of work to maintain the Bee Garden needs doing, then a communication via WhatsApp with volunteers bringing their own tools will get the job done.

Steve said he hoped to simplify the process, improve communication amongst volunteers, increase the number of project owners and bring on board new projects, e.g. the Whitehouse underpass and the garden of the Holy Cross church.

Steve emphasised that he was open to ideas for new projects across Two Mile Ash. He was particularly keen on further development of the Wildlife Habitat project that had originally built and installed 28 bird nesting boxes in 2015. Though the boxes had deteriorated over the years, it had provided a good base for now refreshing this work and involving new people. A standard bird box design had been created by TMAEG environmentalist Iain Robson including detailed drawings and the fitting of sturdy metal entrance holes. Simon Jackson had built two of the boxes and brought them to the meeting. He noted that an ideal material for construction was offcuts of oak flooring planks where available.

Steve said that he hoped TMAEG would go on to build and install not only bird boxes, but owl and bat boxes and hedgehog shelters. He said that boxes, once installed, would need volunteers to monitor them. Simon took the opportunity to encourage all to consider creating gaps in their fencing gravel boards to allow hedgehogs to roam freely between properties.

Accounts Review and Way Forward

Simon thanked Max Tarabbia (in his absence) for another year of independently auditing and signing off the TMAEG accounts. The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. He noted that the overall funds had reduced by some £400 mainly due to insurance costs, increasing website and bank charges plus spend on plants and compost.

Current subscriptions were not adequate to cover running costs and Simon referred to the proposed membership fee changes that had also been circulated in advance. This would be discussed and voted on during the formal AGM later in the day.

Simon took the opportunity to encourage all to use bank transfer for payments of subscriptions and any voluntary donations to fund planting in future. He said that cash was being used less frequently in general and that bills had to be paid electronically. Linda would be emailing members with bank payment details.

Membership and Safeguarding Updates

Membership - Linda Coveney introduced herself and outlined the new role of Membership Secretary. She also introduced and welcomed Christine Dredge to support her with this.

Linda reported that in recent months they had:

- Moved from paper records to an electronic spreadsheet of members.
- Developed a GDPR compliant contact list.
- Introduced the tmaegmembership@gmail.com address and were looking at a new WhatsApp group for general information.
- Continued to validate historical records of membership. To this end Linda asked all to check they were receiving communication from the above email address and if not, to check email spam folders and accept this sender as valid where needed.

There were 82 TMAEG members during 2025/26.

Linda noted that a perk of membership was the possibility to join visits, such as to Coton Manor. She asked that if anyone had ideas for future visits that they email the membership address or talk to Roger Day, who leads on pulling together events.

Safeguarding - Linda then referred to the TMAEG Safeguarding Policy and the draft changes to it that had been circulated in advance. She explained that for sound historical reasons under 16s had not been able to participate, but that going forward TMAEG wished to encourage the involvement of families. She recognised that under 16s would be future gardeners and could be encouraged through participation in TMAEG to be proud of their local environment. The new Safeguarding Policy, if voted through at the later AGM part of the meeting, would be updated on the website.

Presentation to outgoing Chair Chris Gossop

On behalf of the Committee Simon presented Chris with a framed picture of the Bluebell Circuit. He was also given a certificate showing a dedication to him of trees planted within College Wood, near Nash.

Lesley came forward to present Chris with a wonderful crabapple tree as a gift from the Committee.

He was sincerely thanked by all with a round of applause for all his leadership and dedication to TMAEG during its first 15 years.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. The minutes and notes from the Year 14 AGM meeting were accepted as a true record by a show of hands. This was formally proposed by Barry Bateman and seconded by Simon Jackson.
2. There were no matters arising.
3. The annual accounts for the year ending 31st July 2026, as certified by Max Tarabbia, were accepted by a show of hands. This was formally proposed by Roger Day and seconded by Linda Coveney.
4. The proposed changes to the constitution regarding the year end dates were accepted by a show of hands. This was formally proposed by Brian Lindsay and seconded by Lesley Tyler.
5. The proposed changes to the safeguarding policy were accepted by a show of hands. This was formally proposed by Lesley Tyler and seconded by Leo Jackson.
6. The resolution for new resident and business membership subscriptions were accepted by a show of hands. This was formally proposed by Leo Jackson and seconded by Linda Coveney.
7. Elections:

   All existing Committee members and officers formally stood down from their 2025/26 positions. Chris Gossop then oversaw the elections into new roles which were voted on as follows:

   Simon Jackson was elected Chair. This was proposed by Barry Bateman and seconded by Roger Day.

   Steve Raine was elected Secretary. This was proposed by Margaret Parrott and seconded by Brian Lindsay.

   Chris Cuff was elected Treasurer. Although Chris had sent his apologies to the meeting, he had agreed beforehand to stand as a candidate for Treasurer. This was proposed by Roger Day and seconded by Simon Jackson.

Further Committee Members were confirmed as:

Linda Coveney was formally elected to the Committee by proposal from Steve Raine and seconded by Leo Jackson.

Christine Dredge was formally elected to the Committee by proposal from Linda Coveney and seconded by Simon Jackson.

Leo Jackson was formally elected to the Committee by proposal from Roger Day and seconded by Brian Lindsay.

It was agreed by all that the following established members of the team continue in their roles:

Lesley Tyler, Roger Day and **Michael Allen**. This was proposed by Barry Bateman and seconded by Christine Dredge.

In all, nine Committee members were duly elected. Chris said that one or two more spaces on the Committee were available and asked if anyone else wished to come forward. As there were no immediate takers, he asked that it be noted that anyone could contact the Committee to seek to join at any time.

8. Message from newly appointed Chair Simon Jackson

Simon thanked all in the room for attending and extended his thanks to all TMAEG participants and indeed any residents who had expressed an interest in the projects whilst they were underway.

Most especially Simon thanked Chris Gossop for being so welcoming when he had originally sought to join TMAEG. He noted that TMAEG helps to maintain and improve the environment in Two Mile Ash which all residents benefit from. He sincerely thanked Chris and Pavla for their tireless efforts over the past 15 years. He noted Chris' dynamism, self sacrifice and obvious enjoyment of the work.

Simon also noted Steve Raines inspirational enthusiasm during the past year and his drive to keep projects running whilst TMAEG

transitioned from Chris' leadership to a new way forward.

Simon summed up by saying he wanted TMAEG to have a profound impact on the local environment by continued and new projects. He looked forward to creating a fun, sociable and effective group.

9. Any Other Business: Chris Bevan asked whether the attendees were aware of the Climate Action Network. Simon confirmed that he was and as new Chair would be looking into this further.

Minutes prepared by Caroline Raine 20/09/2026