

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Mon 9th November 2020 on Zoom [19:30 –21.00]
Minutes prepared by Mary

Chaired by Fergus

AGENDA

1. **Present:** Adrian Hill, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Charlotte Rushton, Chris White, Eleanor Lines, Emanuelle Paulson, Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Gracie Fickling, Judi Marshall, Kimberley Monahan, Lily Paulson, Mary Dignan, Noel Sharp, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee),

Apologies: John Latter, Lee Evans

2. **Minutes of 15th October 2020 meeting – Approved**

Proposed: Adrian; Seconded: Eleanor

Item 4.4 Tetbury Town Council (TTC) Climate Action Working Group Members: Ben confirmed that Sue Brown is a member of this Group

3. **Earth Protector Communities Campaign - Charlotte**

Thanks to all 22 who have signed up. Ben and Charlotte have created a poster which is to go on the website, FB page and Tesco notice board. It will also be emailed around for people to distribute. Will send poster to Fergus

On the website there is now a link and people can email Greening Tetbury to express their support. A few more names are desirable.

C's Mother is a head teacher at Avening. She showed her criteria for becoming an Earth Protector Town – she will pilot by spreading the awareness in her school. They have already informally adopted many of the principles. Depending on the outcome, Charlotte may then approach St Mary's.

Eleanor – Question for the Climate Strategy Group members: TTC Have declared a Climate Emergency, and she wondered how is the relationship between TTC and GT?

Fergus said regarding the Earth Protector Towns, if we have enough support that will become apparent.

The 3 GT Trustees have a meeting with the co-founder of Earth Protector Campaign on the 10th November.

Fergus explained that only TTC can do this for the town. We cannot do it as a charity.

ACTION: Fergus to give Eleanor an update after Tuesday meeting, so that it can go into the Tetbury Advertiser article.

Charlotte could write earlier to TTC. But awaiting more evidence and support as previously discussed.

Ben - TTC Climate Action Plan is almost complete. It will go to Council this month or next month. Concerned whether they will support it. Is wary of putting pressure on TTC with Earth Protector Town earlier than that. There might be a handful of Councillors who are not interested. He recommended approaching the Youth Group first.

Kimberley suggested people could lobby councillors they know to express support for Climate Action.

ACTION: Kimberley

She said everyone is watching TTC at the moment, they could do positive things.

4. Use of GT name and logo

This arose because of an item discussed at the last meeting – Freebie Fridays – see 15TH Oct Minutes Item 9.

It was agreed that the logo should not be used without permission. GT needs control of how it is used. Should not be used for something others disagree with and should only be used by members.

Rosemary asked how permission was to be granted and Adrian suggested the Trustees could deal with this. Corporate responsibility

There was further discussion about using the name under one's signature. It was agreed that members could use it if sending letters and therefore declaring their interest.

As regards the logo, that would need permission and would need to be sanctioned by the Trustees, in some circumstances it may need to go to the full meeting.

5. Minutes on website

Fergus was keen to make people aware that the Minutes go onto the Website and so are in the public domain. They need to be agreed by the Chair before they are made public.

People could say if something is not to be put in the Minutes

Rosemary – thanked and congratulated Judi on her Minutes.

6. Contacting other members by email

Gracie raised the difficulty of contacting other members of the GT group and suggested we devise a Google doc spreadsheet on which members could put their names and email addresses and special interests/skills. Some people may not wish to share their addresses.

Following discussion it was agreed that all signed up members could have access to the document and if people did not wish to share their address that was ok, they would still be able to have access to the document.

7. Agricultural Bill

Rosemary declared she was not an expert on the issue but wished to raise awareness within GT. She explained that there are concerns about whether animal and plant standards are being protected. The Commons are not getting amendments approved by Parliament. Eminent local farmers have set up an overarching body to vet agreements. Amendments could lead to 100 pages of rules that might delay future trade agreements.

Rosemary said we need to stay alert. We are a protesting body. What could we be doing?

Eleanor has used a template letter to protest. Should we be writing to the MP?

Fergus said we could choose not to buy from countries that have poor standards. We could be active and stand outside supermarkets and help raise awareness.

Kimberley said British farmers will carry on with standards and they will push for any food that is imported to be appropriately labelled. Though poor ingredients are often incorporated into other cheaper products. There is a need to push for thorough labelling.

8. Tip of the month

The poster has been prepared. The message is to consider before you buy your Christmas tree. Thanks to Rosemary and Richard, it is a good poster.

Information was also circulated from Chris Crookall-Fallon re a 'Green Christmas'. He is happy for it to be used as we wish.

It is possible to rent a tree – including from somewhere near Winstone's Icecream on Minchinhampton Common. They take care of the tree during the year. Mary and Gracie have done this. One can also request the same tree the following year.

(For information, it is not an inexpensive option)

9. Updates from the sub-groups: Energy, Food, Plastics, Transport

Energy Green Homes Grant. There is a real issue about sourcing tradespeople. Contractors from Newbury and Gloucester are not prepared to travel here. Neither company was happy to subcontract. Warm and Well are aware of the issue. Fergus wrote an email to Rishi Sunak, the reply was passed onto the Chancellor's office. He also copied in the MP.

Eleanor explained she is trying to buy a house in Sherston. An Air source heating person from Eco-vision at Kemble Airfield came to talk about options including solar/ thermal. They have just become a Trustmark provider and said it was not an arduous and lengthy process. Could we encourage people to sign up? Kimberley – explained that Eco-vision have set up this before.

Gracie – Ecotricity in Stroud might have a list of contacts – Gracie will contact them –

ACTION; Gracie

Fergus has feedback that the Trustmark is arduous and does require an annual report.

Ben explained that the issues with the Trustmark aren't with green energy suppliers – as it is in their interest. There are loads of local people who provide heat pumps and solar. It's specifically installers of insulation, doors and so on – they will be busy already. So it might already be too late to suggest that new people sign up.

It is possible to write to people in charge making it clear that it is a sham. We could ask the Shadow Environment Secretary to raise the issue rather than Govt. **ACTION – Fergus will do**

Rosemary gave feedback that Bromford Housing are looking at different potential grants.

Mary contacted 8 housing providers in Tetbury to raise awareness re the grants. There did not seem to be much awareness but those she spoke to said they would give the information to the relevant people in their organisation

Food – nothing to report

Plastics – Gracie, Mary, Lily, Charlotte, Eleanor – nice ideas coming up from the Plastics Group. Re Christmas. There is a Christmas Tree Festival at St Saviours, from early Dec to the beginning of January. Discussion ensued re type of tree. Kimberley will look into 'stick trees' and will also provide a decoration. We need to make plastic free and 'eco' decorations. All members asked to donate.

Please let Gracie or Mary know if anyone has decorations they are willing to donate. **ACTION: All**

Another idea is to have '12 days of Christmas' suggestions to live sustainably. Perhaps an eco-friendly Christmas – including plastics and food use. It will be a social media campaign. With a poster that Gracie has done.

Send ideas to Gracie for suggested actions on each day. **ACTION: All Groups**

Charlotte suggested that the subgroups could provide a number of tips each.

Looking forward, maybe we could have a single-use plastic free week in January?

And also.....Pencil in another litter pick for next Spring?

Rosemary raised the possibility of having a trail of windows dedicated to the 12 days. Due to lockdown this idea to be considered for next year.

There are 500 members on the GT Facebook page, but it is used very little now so we need to think about regenerating it. **ACTION: Plastics sub group**

Transport - Ben

CDC and Gloucester County Council are not doing anything new for road safety in the town. The second round of funding is for Covid – it is unlikely that Tetbury will get any.

Ben decided to start a *20 for Tetbury* Campaign – linked with *20 is Plenty*. Will look for a way to get people to promise to drive at 20 miles an hour in Tetbury. Pledge and act (and display a suitable sticker) rather than sign a petition. Ben can obtain car stickers that say 20 is Plenty - £1 each.

Kimberley would be happy to put a sticker in her car.

Ben asked how many at the meeting would pledge – most said they would. Ben took down names. There was good discussion re this proposal.

Ben is not ready for it to go into the Advertiser yet. He will ask the Editor for a separate column – to include a wider group.

Food -Emanuelle asked who is in the food group? – Ben and Kimberley were, but it just fizzled out. Emanuelle and Lily interested to restart it, GT happy for that to happen. Eleanor will join. Farmer Fred on the Facebook group would also be interested. Kimberley explained that Covid put paid to the proposed foodie gathering.

10. Any other business and date of next meeting

AOB. Mary will fill in the forms for the Council regarding the Christmas Tree festival

ACTION: Mary

30 November next Zoom meeting at 19.30