

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Wednesday 5th May 2021 on Zoom [19:30 –21:00]
Minutes prepared by Lily Paulson

Chaired by Fergus

Present: Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Anne Cox, Charlotte Rushton, Christopher White, Michael Moran, Adrian Hill, Jill Peacey, Nikki Ind, Judi Marshall, Mary Winsome, Eleanor Lines, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Noel Sharp, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee).

Apologies: Maggie Marriott

1. Minutes of 6th April 2021 meeting

No comments or corrections.

The Minutes were approved. Proposed: Jill; Seconded: Michael

2. Doughnut Economics Update (info) – Noel

Next event will be run as an open space event where people will be asked beforehand: ‘What areas of doughnut economics do you want to talk about?’

Break-out groups according to the areas of interest (40 mins), feedback (30 mins), conclusion (10 mins).

General agreement for the date to take place on the 19th of May.

Event date: Wednesday 19th May.

ACTION

Noel to distribute information by email.

3. YouTube site for GT (info) – Noel and Gracie

Question: Should GT set up a YouTube account?

Noel willing to set it up for the Doughnut Economics event videos.

Mary - Concern about how many platforms GT has and the limited people able to manage them.

Anne - Possibly shelve for now and come back to it at a later date?

Ben - Initial event videos could be put up now?

Putting the doughnut economics event videos up initially was approved.

ACTION

Gracie to put the videos on Instagram if possible.

Noel to put videos on YouTube.

4. GT Book Club/Café (info/discussion) – Noel and Chris

Chris – proposes to create a list of books that would be of interest to the group with a mini-review of each to be added to newsletter.

On the subject of spaces for the social café meetings:

Fergus – Met with Richard Warrington (trustee of Goods Shed) who was very positive about an evening slot for the facilities. GT would pay for refreshments.

Noel – John Turton asked the Whistlestop. Goods Shed had initially asked for money. Blue Zucchini didn't have capacity. Snooty Fox said no. Wild Carrot are willing but not accessible on foot.

Rosemary – Notes that the Goods Shed, which is supported by the Arts Council, is a mutually supportive option as it helps them to meet certain criteria by holding green events.

Judi – How many meetings is Greening Tetbury striving for?

Fergus – Social evenings would be separate to the regular monthly meeting.

Rosemary – Hopes that these café meetings would expand the reach in the community/appeal to a wider audience.

Ben – Could we rotate the cafes?

Nikki – Agreed. Could there be different venues based on the season? Spreading it out would be a good thing.

Question: When to arrange the first evening?

After June 21st based on restrictions.

ACTION

Agreed to pursue the Wild Carrot as the first venue, and the Goods Shed for the following meeting.

5. Ethical Finance (info/discussion) – Chris

Shared information and concerns about ethical finance companies which are indulging in greenwashing and subcontracting to other firms that are supporting fossil fuels. The criteria for institutions to call themselves ethical are fairly strict but the data supporting the claims of some ethical institutions can be sketchy. There is a 'Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation' which forces institutions to disclose what they invest your money in.

Invited other interested people to join him on this subject.

Lily – There is a tool by 'Bank.green' which checks whether your bank invests in fossil fuels.

Anne – You can ask your financial advisor to change your funds/pensions funds based on what you'd like to invest in or not invest in.

Rosemary – Pensions can be a very touchy subject on the greening agenda. A potential avenue to explore might be how ethical are state-funded pension systems? If the UK is claiming to be zero-carbon by 2050, shouldn't their state pensions be going the same way? A potential pressure point.

Lily and Noel to join in a conversation with Chris.

6. Structure of GT/Earth Protector Towns (info) – Rosemary and Charlotte

Full conversation deferred till next meeting.

Subgroups are being changed to *Action Groups*.

Earth Protector Towns are being included as part of the Action Groups.

ACTION

Fergus to email the new structure document with the minutes.

7. Tip of the Month (info) – Rosemary

On plastics and the four Rs.

8. Updates from sub-groups/action groups: Energy, Food, Plastics, Transport, Wildlife (info)

5.1 Energy: Fergus, Ben

Richard Warrington wants to improve the environmental aspects of the Goods Shed: solar panels, air source heat pump, possibly insulation, raised beds for flowers/veg near the cafe, bird boxes, and recycling.

Many shared concerns about what might be meant by ‘tidying up’ the Goods Shed area.

Anne – Please don’t ‘tidy up’ the grounds.

Jill – Agreed. Leave flowers that are good for pollinators. Be careful when we mention ‘tidying up’.

Ben – Agreed.

Rosemary – Need some advertising or public labelling: ‘we’re leaving the nettles because...’. Provide education.

Judi – Adds her voice to that. Wildlife has been stripped out of that area and restoration is needed.

Rosemary – Goods Shed have also requested an energy audit. And St Mary’s are undergoing an insulation project, just waiting for a funding avenue.

Nikki – Will Cook has previously built the raised beds on TTC land. On the rewilding side, TTC are preparing areas belonging to the Council ahead of wildflower planting. It may be worth having a conversation with Tara.

Also notes Glorious Grasslands are a good resource.

Mary – On wilding, it would be good to do a feature in the advertiser or tip of the month on the value of nettles and the butterflies that live on them.

Anne – Has been trying to ask questions about whether a wildlife audit has been done for the area around the Goods Shed and she can’t get any response from anyone. She has asked The Ecologist for Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Wildlife. Who is looking at that area? Who manages it? What are the plans?

Nikki – The Wild Towns project was a partnership with TTC, Feoffees and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Much of the land is Feoffees, some is TTC.

Ben – Agrees about the lack of connection between parties managing that area and facilitating those links is part of GT’s role. The next step is to try and get something together where all the stakeholders are represented.

Eleanor – Should we aim for Tetbury to have a management plan for public areas/open spaces? Do we have one already? Questions like these can be answered there.

Nikki – The issue is that TTC don't own a lot of land. The Feoffees own a lot and the trustees are responsible for that land and they're supported in that by the Thirteen. They won't necessarily have an integrated plan or be talking to TTC about collaborating on that. The route to go through is the clerk to the town or the clerk to the Feoffees.

Fergus – There is an opportunity with the Goods Shed and Whistle Stop Café for GT to help them so the action groups should take steps to do that in their respective areas.

5.2 Food:

Fergus – Spoke to Gary O'Connor about a community fridge and suggested that it could be located at the town council. Hubbub have initiated 100 fridges around the UK already.

Nikki – It's not only about supporting people who are struggling, it's about not wasting food generally.

Rosemary – Should be careful that it doesn't conflict with the food bank and existing recycling food projects at the schools. It needs to complement them, not replace them.

Anne – Is part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group and notes that if anything is going to happen, it needs to be in collaboration with them. It might be worth finding out about the scheme to then feed into those existing groups.

Nikki – Meeting with the Health and Wellbeing group tomorrow so will mention it.

ACTION

Nikki to find out more and relay the information to Fergus.

5.3 Plastics: Charlotte

On 'Paint the Town Green':

- Mary secured a stall under the market hall for every Saturday (10-3) with stickers, a quiz (Avening School might produce this), and asking the public what they'd like to see from us.
- ***Please fill in the sign-up sheet (google doc to be shared) to help with tabling on Saturdays.***
- Invite cards have been given out and tent cards are being ordered and will be distributed next week.
- Official opening is Saturday 5th of June at midday.
- Hoping to get the Town Crier and the Mayor.
- St Mary's primary are making a banner to go above the council building and Lizzie is designing a GT flag to be flown above the offices.
- St Mary's school children are judging the tent cards/displays from the 9th – 10th of June.

Suggestions for prizes?

Fergus – Environmental/wildlife book.

Chris – Offered a voucher for the pottery. And happy to display PtTG info/poster during an event he has prior to the launch in June.

Rosemary – Can we give a prize to everyone who tried? And the children award the main prizes?
Umbrella badge?

Mary – We've handed out 94 leaflets and it's much wider than just the businesses. Everyone who contributes says 'we're supporting Greening Tetbury by...'. That's a lot of people to recognise.

Charlotte – Who should give the prizes?

Judi – Could a group of the children do that?

General agreement that the St Mary's children should award the prizes.

Michael – Asks for clarification on who the prizes are for and what for?

Charlotte – The shops would be getting the prizes for actions they've mentioned on the tent cards.

Mary – Tara said TTC would fly a climate flag for the month of June.

Nikki – Could ask Alison if they could fly the flag about the Town Hall.

Ben – Alison has already asked if we'd like to fly a flag on the Town Hall.

On the Count for Nature event:

Rosemary – 12th of June: Count on Nature at St Mary's. Requested volunteers for the Nature Walk.

Noel – Christ Church can be included in that.

ACTION

Volunteers to help with the Count for Nature – contact Rosemary.

Volunteers to help with the tabling for Paint the Town Green, Saturdays in June.

5.4 Transport: Anne

Anne – Final draft of the car-share survey is done. Aiming to put it out next week in time for the advertiser. Will be sending information soon.

ACTION

All to help distribute that information with friends/family once received.

5.5 Wildlife

9. TTC Climate Strategy Group (info) – Nikki

- The town council website has been updated.
- At the district council in March, Nikki asked to be consulted on EV charging points in parishes.
- Asked about information on social housing and technology available, e.g. mould combat, improving indoor conditions, reducing energy etc. Asked that CDC will work with housing associations on this.
- Spoke to Hannah Fountain, the new sustainable transport officer, and she's keen to be very involved with parishes.
- Still working on the Kemble to Tetbury line.
- A feasibility study has been approved for a 'very light railway' from Kemble to Cirencester.
- Discussed the process of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Wild Carrot outlined their work.
- Jake Pickering spoke about the Tetbury Cup/Tetbury Tankard to be used for events in the town and will be doing some work on that.

10. Google Docs (info) – Ben

There is a working document of projects that GT is working on so that anyone can look at it and see if they'd like to get involved. To access it, you need a google account then let Ben know and you'll be invited to edit the document.

Lily – Is it meant to be public? Could it be widened/newsletter?

Fergus – Thought the document was just for people working on those projects so would prefer it to stay private because of confidentiality issues.

Agreed to keep it invite only but publicise it more widely within the Greening Tetbury circle to include more people in the access.

11. Farmers Talk (event) – Fergus

Spoke to Goods Shed and they're very cautious about agreeing to host an event due to covid uncertainty but has requested a booking for August.

3 speakers have been confirmed for the event:

John Meadley (Chair of the Pasture-Fed Organisation)

Sophia Ashe

Farmer Fred (Close Farm)

Request for the event to be later in August – concerns about people possibly being on holiday.

Anne – Attended a talk about creating new standards for sustainable farming with the NFU, DEFRA, Morrisons and others that could be of interest to others.

12. Any other business

Next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting (9th of June). Only members can attend.

Fergus - Suggests holding a Steering Group meeting at the end of the AGM.

General agreement to the above.

ACTION

Subgroups to decide who will represent each group at the steering group meeting.

The Advertiser will be a summary of the year for June and any future projects to be emailed to Eleanor.

Mary – Thinking of designing a T-shirt to be worn for events if people in favour.

Anne – So long as it's ethical and sustainable.

Any more prize suggestions for Paint the Town Green, please email Mary.

13. Date of next meeting – 9th of June (AGM followed by Steering Group Meeting).