

Greening Tetbury

Virtual Meeting: 01/07/2020 on Zoom

Chaired by Judi and Fergus

Notes taken by Mary

Minutes

Present: Gracie Fickling, Maggie Marriott, Nikki Ind, Councillor for TTC and District Council, Eleanor Lines, Judi Marshall, Rosemary Bailey(Trustee), Michael Bailey, John Turton, Ceridwen Farley, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Chris White , Noel Sharp, Mary Dignan, Chris Crookhall-Fallon, Head of Climate Action for CDC

Apologies: John Andrews, Claire Walmsley-Moss

Chris Crookhall-Fallon, Head of Climate Action for CDC came as an observer to the meeting and was invited to introduce himself. He was appointed in February 2020. He explained that the Climate Action Plan is not yet finalised and invited ideas and challenges. He is keen to link with Greening Tetbury and happy to support us.

Contact: chris.crookhall-fallon@publicagroup.uk

1. A) Fergus is happy to announce that after 4 ½ months of form filling and communication with the Charity Commission, Greening Tetbury (GT) has been awarded charitable status. Adrian Hill has been a great help during this process.
GT is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). GT will not have to register with Companies House. GT will report to the Charity Commission annually.
B) Following this process it has been necessary to set up a bank account. The Trustees have been working to try to identify ethical banks with no signs of investment in fossil fuels etc. This has been quite a challenge and Ben supplied a very useful ranked table of ethical banks. The decision has been to go with Triodos Bank for the business account and Nationwide for the current account. It is necessary to be able to access cash with a debit card and Triodos do not issue debit cards.
There are 2 trustees who can access the debit card, Ben and Fergus. The 3 trustees are named on the Business Account.
Rosemary and Maggie wished to congratulate Fergus and Adrian for all the work involved and to say thank you on behalf of GT.
Gracie explained that she works for a charity and if there were questions that GT wished clarity on she said her charity would be happy to help. Graciefickling12@gmail.com (for charity and CIO queries)
2. Maggie (Communications) explained that the website costs £86.40 annually and will be due for renewal. Last year Maggie paid for most of it.
Rosemary and Michael very keen to say Maggie should not be out of pocket for GT.
The domain name does not need to be renewed for 3 years.
Survey Monkey cost £99 as it is necessary to pay for the data. On this occasion Fergus paid for it.

Maggie explained that the Survey Monkey charge £288 for a year. It was decided not to go for the year just to pay for this survey.

Nikki (TTC & TDC) explained there are grants we could apply for from CDC. At the moment they are focused on Covid but that will change in the future.

Nikki also said that TTC had used Survey Monkey and recommended we speak to Tara at the Council offices for further information.

Further ideas for raising funds: Try the Co-op and Tesco's

Judi enquired whether we would ask for a subscription. Fergus thought maybe £5-10 annually to be a member of GT. At the moment we do not have the business account set up so that will be on hold.

Ben said maybe people would be discouraged by a fee?

Judi suggested when people became members could the sub be at their discretion?

Fergus raised the question as to who would have voting rights.

It was decided that this needed further discussion and needs to go to another meeting.

3. Feedback from Virtual meeting on the 30/06/2020 with Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown, MP for the Cotswolds.

Fergus felt that the MP responded positively to some of our questions and committed to take some of the queries back to his colleagues in parliament. Fergus felt he showed a fair breadth of knowledge of the issues. The MP said that any submitted questions that he hadn't answered, he would email with a reply. The meeting was not just for GT people so there were others e.g. CPRE who also asked questions.

Overall the problem was that GT members had submitted questions and were expecting either Sir Geoffrey or his administrator to raise and answer the questions but this did not happen so it was rather a hesitant meeting. Sir G. advised that we could join his Barn Theatre virtual Q&A sessions. You can look at this on YouTube to gain an idea of how it works. Judi suggested we get good representation from GT if we decide to go to the Barn session with Sir Geoffrey.

4. Ben addressed the issue of pedestrian and cycle routes. He explained that he had attended a video for Local Authority and Councillors. There is statutory guidance to the LA to provide for social distancing in town centres. This could pave the way for making the town safer for all. It could feed into being for long term measures but they need to engage the public in discussion for the long term developments. They could identify where safety/risk points are and pass to the strategic group for ward planning at CDC.

5. There is a consultation paper out at the moment which Ben has put on the website and the Facebook page and encourages people to complete it. 800 went out from CDC but there have only been 50 responses so far.

Some quite concerning things came out of that consultation. The information could be helpful to build a movement to push for change.

Nikki said they were looking at the High Street in Tetbury and providing information to GCC for Highways.

Ben mentioned that Grant Shapps, Transport Minister, wanted to use the rapid changes for Covid as a base for future changes.

6. Rosemary suggested her latest idea should be '**Foraging is Free**' as in blackberries, elderflower, bilberries etc.

There was unanimous approval for this so she will proceed with developing it and check with Tara at TTC so that GT can continue to use the TTC website and Advertiser to include the 'Tip of the Month'

People enquired as to whether one can forage at Fred's veg shed?

Judi suggested pointing people to foraging in a sustainable way.

7. Eleanor advised that the next GT Tetbury Advertiser article is due on the 11th of August. She would really appreciate contributions from the different groups of GT informing about future plans and projects.
8. Ben and John reported back from the Climate Action Group. On July 9th there is a Climate Action strategy group. The plan is not yet finalised. It then needs to go to the Town Council and get them to sign up to it.

John said at the previous meeting they did not sign up to going plastic free because they thought it meant going completely plastic free and that did not seem possible. Mary explained that it was single use plastic free we were aiming for. This needs to be clarified to them.

They are talking about becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. John wondered how they can measure that. Judi recommended looking into Ashton Hayes website in Cheshire because they are also aiming to be carbon neutral. www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk

They set up their own energy company. Noel will check what Stroud may be doing.

9. Noel put forward some ideas to consider in the breakout groups; the month of action proposals e.g. litter pick, shop window displays, eco gardens week-end, plus ideas from elsewhere e.g. Tree planting, seed banks, community fridge, electric vehicle parties, Bike projects, mending workshops etc.
10. Maggie was keen for us to look at the survey results and work on some ideas from there. The public need to know their ideas are useful and acted upon. Please see the results on slides so far as sent to you on an email.
Very interesting comments particularly re walking and cycling. It also highlights the abysmal transport system, as illustrated by Ben's exercise re time tabling earlier in the year.

11. Breakout Groups

Discussion after breakout:

There is a Gloucestershire consultation process re transport at the moment. It is a County Council and Highways issue and sits with Stephen Hirst, Conservative Councillor for TTC and the GCC.

Chris Crookhall-Fallon recommended re electric cars to check out co-charger.com

Discussion re a footpaths map. Referred to the footpaths group but it was pointed out that we are particularly interested in it in terms of the town. Some concerns raised that some paths do not have adequate lighting or lights may be obscured by tree overgrowth etc.

Judi anxious that there is not an increase in light pollution. Rosemary suggested the energy group could look into environmentally friendly lighting, perhaps solar?

Gracie suggested we try another litter pick. There was some anxiety re infection from touching others' rubbish. Gracie explained that TCC have protective equipment they can lend us. If we complete a risk assessment with Surfers against Sewage they will give us liability.

Gracie and Mary to discuss and maybe try a week later in July?

Fergus said that he had been in contact with the project manager of the planning application for the Dolphins Hall site and there is a possibility that we may be able to help with the funding of the environmental aspect of the building work.

Meeting closed. Next meeting in approximately 6 weeks.