

Greening Tetbury (GT)

Virtual Meeting: Thurs 7th January 2021 on Zoom [19:30 –21:00]
Minutes prepared by Judi

Chaired by Fergus

Present: Adrian Hill, Anne Cox, Ben Jackson (Trustee), Charlotte Rushton, Chris White, Eleanor Lines, Emanuelle Paulson, Fergus Dignan (Trustee), Gracie Fickling, John Turton, Judi Marshall, Lily Paulson, Mary Dignan, Noel Sharp, Rosemary Bailey (Trustee) Sophia Ashe

Apologies: Chris Crookall-Fallon, John Latter, Kimberley Monahan, Lee Evans, Maggie Marriott, Nikki Ind

1. Minutes of 30th November 2020 meeting

A correction had been made to Item 7.d Transport since the 6th Dec 2020 issue. It is Nikki Ind (rather than TTC) who is working on the Kemble and Westonbirt cycling routes, in her capacities as a Town and District Councillor and Chair of the Climate Strategy Working Group. She is lobbying Glos County Councillor Stephen Hirst to re-visit these plans and ideas.

The Minutes were approved. Proposed: Mary; Seconded: Lily

1.1 Matters Arising

Item 2: Tree planting St.Mary's (info) - Rosemary

No further developments on this, given recent Covid restrictions

Item 3: Heating Project (info) Rosemary

The Energy Group has met since November and considered some positive possibilities. No further developments as St Mary's school now closed for Lockdown3.

2. Tip of Month (info/discussion) Rosemary

Will draw on the Countryfile Project to plant Britain. A Plant Tetbury initiative – a few basic hints about planting. Including that the planting can be something of any size and advice if intending to plant a tree. Will go to TTC, St Mary's School, on poster.

3. Facebook GT page (discussion) - Sophia Ashe & Fergus

There were several strands to this discussion:

Whether some information links placed on the Greening Tetbury Facebook page could be misleading

Sophia Ashe is a local farmer and a recent graduate of the Royal Agricultural College. She expressed her concern about potentially false information being posted or advocated on the GT Fb page. What a person decides to eat is entirely up to them, but she is especially concerned about potentially misleading information about meat production. People will not always question things when they are advised to watch a YouTube video. For example, a specific video implied that all rainforest depletion was for cattle farming. This is not true.

When people then seek to raise concerns, they can be attacked personally. Should not be personal, it is about considering facts.

Not about censoring. Being in a rural setting, GT could be encouraging farmers to enhance the environment.

Fergus: How should/ can we police the Facebook page?

Views expressed:

Group settings can be changed so that administrators have to approve all posts. Anything that cannot be supported should not be posted. Takes time. Information would need to be checked. Sophia

Fact-checking content is a huge commitment and too labour intensive. Ben, Gracie

Some posts have been removed, if someone has raised an issue. The current approach relies on someone raising an issue. Ben; Gracie

People are approved. Some people have been rejected – eg from USA and nothing to do with Tetbury. Gracie

We are not experts and not claiming to provide expert advice. People assume that vegan is more eco-friendly. There are pros and cons to a lot that is put out. If a post is wrong, it can be taken down. But if something has pros and cons, it might well not be appropriate to remove the post. Gracie

Meat is a sensitive topic. There could well be differences of opinion. Lily

Facebook are changing rules about what is a public and a private group. If have to approve content, then possibly not classed as a public group. Gracie

Could put a notice on the Fb page saying that posts do not necessarily reflect the views of GT and that people need to check information. Anne; Gracie
Also re being kind and courteous. Gracie

Rules statement could include suggesting how people can act if they have concerns – eg that can flag an emoji if they think a post is inaccurate. 3 major objections could mean it is removed. Lily

Wanting to defend the Fb page being an open space. Can share things that one doesn't know about and explore. The moderators do a good job managing the site. Noel

There was general agreement for posting a statement on the GT Fb page addressing the issues discussed.

ACTION

Gracie offered to review the policies and post a notice on the Fb site

She will discuss with others – **Charlotte, Lily, Mary** - and ask Sharon Butler (who set the page up and did post initial rules) if she wants to be involved

The key is to promote more discussion. If a video just sits there it is serving limited purposes. If it prompts a discussion, that's how people learn. Encouraging us/ people to educate ourselves/ themselves is a key GT purpose. Ben

There was agreement for the importance of promoting discussion.

Controversial issues such as farming and sustainable ways of rearing meat could be cues to potential debates to promote – through Tetbury Advertiser contributions and through events. Judi, Eleanor
Instagram has an 'Instant politics' format – a weekly posting of a question to stimulate debate. Charlotte

Is Facebook the appropriate forum for GT and can more engagement be stimulated there?

GT Fb has 600 members, but not many people currently use Fb. Mary
Younger members of GT use other forums – including Twitter (used by Stroud Plastics) and Instagram

What is Facebook for and is it fulfilling our purposes? Rosemary

Several people at the meeting said that they are not on Facebook. But GT is responsible for the GT Fb page.

Do we need another forum in which we are involved?

Possibly explore also using Instagram. Would need more admin people if want to move to Instagram too.
Gracie

Instagram does not have same open feed as Facebook. Would need to fact check posts as they would come as announcements from GT. Lily

Think can sync posts between Instagram and Facebook, so people can join in from where they are.
Charlotte

It was decided: that we will concentrate on Fb first, before considering other platforms.

ACTION

Charlotte will use Instagram as a way to promote GT, pointing to the GT Fb page

Discussion about developing events to promote discussion – re farming and food initially – generated the following proposals, which seemed to meet with general agreement

- 1. A zoom event in which 3 people offer input (15 mins each?) on farming and food. To promote open discussion rather than polarising debate**
Sophia was asked if she would like to contribute to this and she is very willing to do so.
Other possible contributors mentioned:
Fred – Veg shed
Eco-friendly farmers from Stroud (Sophia)
Kimberley (Noel)
David Wilson of Duchy Home Farm (who will be in the area until end of March, but might be available virtually after that too) (Anne)

Possibly link up with The Goods Shed to organize a virtual meeting

ACTION

Fergus to explore possibilities technically

- 2. In Spring/ summer, when Covid conditions allow, a farming event curated by GT** (practices we would endorse), possibly associated with the annual Open Farm weekend, with benefit of involving children
- 3. Having a monthly (?) discussion.** Could publicise in Tetbury Advertiser and draw people into a debate, help to engage people, could point them to the Facebook page.

4. TTC Climate Change Strategy Group (info) Ben and John

Nikki Ind and Judith Taylor put two documents – the Climate Vision and an Action Plan to the 14th Dec 2020 Tetbury Town Council Meeting.

The Vision, including the declaration of a Climate Emergency was voted through. With two abstentions.

Some people wanted more detail and questioned specific issues, for example re electric cars.

The Climate Strategy Working Group will now continue to add detail and evidence to the Action Plan.

ACTION

John will check with Nikki if we can put the Action Plan onto the Minutes.

Eleanor requested Ben and John provide summary information for the next Tetbury Advertiser article.

5. Updates from sub-groups: Energy, Food, Plastics, Transport (info)

5.1 Food: – Lily: not much progress on project mentioned in November. Now returning to it.

5.2 Plastic: Emanuelle and Mary had created the GT xmas tree at St Saviours.

Gracie put a tip up every day for the 12 days of Christmas

ACTION

Mary to post a photo of the tree on Facebook

Many thanks were expressed to Emanuelle, Gracie and Mary

5.3Transport:

Anne had emailed Fergus wondering if it would be possible to set up a small car club with an electric car/s. There are grants available – up to 13% of cost of car, up to £3000. Possibly store and charge at Tesco. Would need to look at feasibility and funding.

Some companies are offering free installation of car charging points to town councils and local businesses. Fergus from recent email received.

Could be potential help to people in retired people's accommodation – eg McCarthy and Stone. Judi

Tesco manager 18 months ago was talking about having charging points in their carpark. Mary

An organisation did a presentation to Transition Stroud recently <https://www.co-cars.co.uk/> Noel on Chat

There was general interest in exploring this.

John volunteered to be involved and will link up with TTC & CDC current activities, which may include considering charging points.

ACTION

John to arrange invitation for Anne to go TTC Working Party meeting

Anne and John to explore possibilities

6. Idea for a book discussion (Doughnut Economics by Kate Raworth) Noel

Noel recommended *Doughnut Economics: Seven ways to think like a 21st-Century economist* by Kate Raworth (2017) – said it is a fascinating book, addresses macro level and the psychology of how people can be encouraged to make a change. Chris said 'it is brilliant'. Ben & Fergus also reading it.

Book blurb: Economics is broken, and the planet is paying the price. Unforeseen financial crises. Extreme wealth inequality. Relentless pressure on the environment. Can we go on like this? Is there an alternative? In Doughnut Economics, Oxford academic Kate Raworth lays out the seven deadly mistakes of economics and offers a radical re-envisioning of the system that has brought us to the point of ruin.

Moving beyond the myths of 'rational economic man' and unlimited growth, Doughnut Economics zeroes in on the sweet spot: a system that meets all our needs without exhausting the planet. The demands of the 21st century require a new shape of economics.

There was general enthusiasm for an online book discussion.

ACTION

Noel to organise book discussion for Wed 24th Feb 19.30

Fergus to email out to GT emailing list (of 60 or so people)

Eleanor to include in Tetbury Advertiser piece

Ben and Chris happy to help. Could present some ideas, use breakout groups

Chat comment – Could there be a Greening Tetbury Book Group once a month?

Possibility of a pop-up library for book swaps in Tetbury run by GT, when conditions allow. Lily

Avening has a pop-up library in old telephone box

Several people expressed support for this idea.

7. Any other business

7.1 Recommended book and media links

Anne recommended Radio 4 Rethink Series, especially the Fairness programmes daily 4 to 8 Jan 2021 with Amol Rajan

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m000qws1>

Chris recommended the book: Wilding by Isabella Tree

Chris recommended the 2020 Reith Lectures with Mark Carney

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000py8t>

7.2 Flooding of river Churn at Cirencester over xmas

Lee Evans is involved in a social media exploration re histories of flooding and potential causes

If anyone wants to contact him about this, please ask Fergus for his email link

8. Date of next meeting - Monday 8th February 2021 at 19:30

ACTION

Minutes – Lily, Kimberley, Mary and Judi to agree who will do the Minutes for 8th Feb.