

## Minutes for the Greening Tetbury Zoom meeting 06/12/2022@7.30pm

Apologies: Rosemary Bailey, Anne Cox, Ian Watson, John Turton, Ben Jackson, Judi Marshall, Nikki Ind.

Minutes taken by Mary Dignan.

Present: Gracie Fickling, Adrian Hill, Chris White, Fergus Dignan, Mary Dignan.

1. Previous Minutes, no corrections. Proposal: Fergus Seconded: Mary
2. Matters arising from previous minutes:

### (a) Anaerobic digester.

Sibor Bioenergy based in Andover. They use containers. GT did have a couple of visits to Tetbury hospital. Initially it sounded hopeful but the hospital has other renewable priorities at the moment such as solar panelling. It has therefore been left with the hospital to get back to us should they require further input.

There was a more hopeful visit to Whatley Manor. They seem to be interested in the biodigester idea. John T. has given figures to them to consider.

(b) The Westonbirt School Eco-market event, which was planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, did not go ahead due to car parking problems and some technical issues. However, Anne C. and Ben J. ran a sustainable Christmas-themed GT stall at the Market place in Tetbury on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December when the lights were switched on in Tetbury. This was well attended and Fergus read out some positive feedback from Anne in an email that she had sent to him.

Mary mentioned that the GT Christmas tree is up in St Saviour's Church.

**Action:** People are welcome to pop along and add their sustainable decorations.

(c) Tetbury Library wildflower project. Fergus and Mary went to help with hedge planting, meadow creation and raised bed building. This is being developed at the back of the library. Sophie Tallis, the 'Green Champion' there,

is very committed and enthusiastic. **Action:** Further work is planned for February 2023.

(d) Worwell site for potential GP surgery site. Discussion re development and consultation. We were all in agreement that a surgery is desperately needed for the town, but the dilemma is that the development of 27 houses plus the surgery is proposed to take place in a beautiful corner of Tetbury and many people are objecting on environmental grounds.

(e) An Environmental Books meeting..... to be deferred as Rosemary not at meeting and was her agenda item. **Action:** Agenda item for next meeting.

3. Preston Park hedge planting. 150 metres of hedging and oak trees were planted over two Saturdays recently. This was organised by Will Cook. There was a very good turn out for both days and some GT members attended too.

#### 4. Business Plan

March - Seed swap was discussed. The Library was a good venue for this. **Action:** Gracie happy to source some seeds but we will also gather contributions from members and anyone who wishes to contribute.

June - Paint the Town Green

Mary asked the question 'is PTTG in its present format worthwhile?' Chris W. suggested rather than have a stall it is better to be seen to 'get up and do'. Perhaps link with local businesses to do something. E.g. Westonbirt/ Goods shed/ Talks at the Wild Carrot/Highgrove Textiles. It was decided that GT would only have a presence in the Market place on the first and last Saturday of June. **Action:** Start plans in March.

#### 5. Wild Towns Project

Fergus attended a meeting recently at the town council to discuss the list of ecological opportunities in and around Tetbury. This list was created as the result of a collaboration between various parties (GWT, Landuse Consultants Ltd, Tetbury Town Council and GT).

Following the meeting Fergus arranged to meet Colin, the head groundsman for TTC, and they visited several sites in Tetbury this morning.

**Action:** Fergus to try to source some signage for wildflowers and help Colin with wildflower seed sowing in the early Spring.

6. Climate change strategy group update. Deferred to next meeting.

7. AOB

In her email to Fergus, Anne also provided some information from the U3A Public Transport group: Services to Stroud and Yate are not too bad. Quite a few journeys on to Bath and Bristol are feasible from Yate.

Services to Kemble and Cirencester are inadequate. Jeremy Isles-North is co-leading the U3A Public Transport group and looking at seeing if we can use the community bus for group trips to shopping centres or places of interest for a day visit. He will be contacting all members to see where they are interested in going and then negotiating with the community bus.

There is an initiative by Nikki Ind, District Councillor, to ask for a feasibility study for a Robin bus for Tetbury. A pilot is being trialled in the north of CDC.

The future of GT. Adrian feels we should concentrate on 2 big projects and not a lot of small ones which have little impact. This might be a good way to attract people to our organisation.

Chris feels the focus has moved away from sustainability.

There are new schemes for insulating properties, low rated buildings. Can GT help to make people aware of this? **Action:** Fergus to look into this.

U3A, do they have a sustainability group/ might it be worth joining up with them?

**Action:** Chris to check this.

Chris said that a good way of publicising events is by A6-sized flyers, which he has used himself to good effect by getting permission from local shops to display them on their counters.

Next meeting at Christ Church, The Chipping, Tetbury on 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 at 7.30pm.