

Greening Tetbury AGM (in person)- Monday 13th June 2022

Held at Christ Church, The Chippings, Tetbury.

Present: Fergus Dignan (Chair), Ben Jackson (Trustee), Gracie Fickling (minute-taker), Jessica Willows (Trustee), Ian Watson, Annabel Daldry, Judith Marshall, John Turton.

Apologies: Nikki Ind, Adrian Hill, Anne Cox (Trustee), Rosemary Bailey (Trustee), Lily Paulson, Emmanuelle Paulson, Mary Dignan.

1. Minutes of AGM 2021 were approved. Proposed by Noel and seconded by Jessica. Minutes from the Steering Group of 29 Sept 2021 were approved. Proposed by Ben and seconded by Gracie.

2. Chair's Annual Management report
Fergus gave an overview of the past year:

Communication - Fergus started by saying that communications is a big part of Greening Tetbury (GT) and noted that Maggie Marriott would be relinquishing her GT responsibilities, which include: writing and sending the GT newsletter and managing the GT website. Jessica to take over the management of the website but we need someone to take over the GT newsletter.

Events - Paint the Town Green (PTTG) 2021 was a great event and helped raise awareness and connect with local businesses.

Big Green Week was another great event which helped get our name out into the community.

Thanks to Kevin Painter for his support through his articles in the Standard.

A brief update was provided on progress of each area:

Energy – we have an ongoing relationship with the Goods Shed Arts Centre in terms of advising them on their carbon footprint and wildlife-friendly use of the land around the site.

Food – introduction of the community fridge has been a positive move and successful.

Plastics – little progress in this area, although an online session with Andrew Doherty, CDC, about recycling was extremely informative. Litter picks were carried out during the year.

Transport – we engaged with Co-cars (car sharing company) to explore the possibility of a car sharing initiative. However, there was not enough interest at present time to make this feasible.

Wildlife – supported GWT with their efforts in protecting and improving Cookspool for nature. Sophie Tallis's wildflower meadow at Tetbury library was praised as well as the new relationship with Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust (BART)

Future plans: Fergus shared that we would continue with successful events like PTTG & Big Green Week.

3. Annual accounts

Fergus commented that our accounts are healthy, up from £1,550 last year to £2,212 to date. It was noted that membership is our only form of income.

Judith asked when we were due to renew the optional members donation. Fergus confirmed that it should be June and that he would send around a reminder to all members.

Jessica asked how many GT members do we currently have. Fergus confirmed that we currently have 38 members.

The accounts were approved. Proposed by Judith and seconded by John

The Management Report was approved. Proposed by Noel and seconded by Ben.

Noel thanked Fergus for preparing the accounts and report, acknowledging the amount of work put into them.

4. Election of Trustees

One third of Trustees must resign each year according to rules set by the Charity Commission. Therefore, two of our five Trustees must resign. Ben Jackson and Rosemary Bailey have agreed to resign. Both would like to be re-elected.

Ben and Rosemary were both re-elected.

Re-election of Ben – Ian was proposer and seconded by Noel

Re-election of Rosemary – Judith was proposer and seconded by Jessica

Noel asked whether we would like/need more Trustees. Recognising the high level of work that the Trustees take on. Fergus shared that they would still like to have a Trustee with some accountancy skills. Annabel Daldry knows someone who might have accountancy skills and be interested. She will approach them about this.

5. Thank you to Noel Sharp

Noel is re-locating and therefore unable to continue supporting Greening Tetbury as a member. As one of the founding members of Greening Tetbury and a driving force behind the organisation for the last three years, Fergus thanked Noel for his significant contributions to GT. Fergus read a message of thanks from Mary Dignan reflecting on Noel's hand in GT's achievements. Noel was presented with a card and gifts and thanked by the whole group.

1. End and date of next AGM Weds 5 July 2023.

Steering group meeting (in person)– Monday 13 June 2022

(Started immediately after the end of the AGM).

1. Fergus opened the meeting with the question of whether we should rename the steering group to action group as it sounds more interesting and positive? All agreed and the meetings will be called action groups going forward. It was re-iterated that our action groups (Plastics/Travel/Energy etc) don't have to be static, people can choose to move between groups.
2. Each action group gave reflections on the past year
Communications – Gracie Fickling gave an overview of GT's social media activity. Confirming that GT's social media following had increased over the last year and that events like PTTG had helped with this. Fergus queried whether inappropriate comments were being managed and Gracie said that there had been no issues with inappropriate comments or language recently.

Gracie and Jessica asked for more social media content to be sent to them going forward, e.g. images of Tetbury, GT projects, local projects and initiatives that fit with GT's aims. Gracie also reminded the group to plan communications into GT activities, including taking photos/videos/write ups for blogs, social media posts etc.

Jessica has some ideas to update GT's website, such as showcasing more recent activity/projects. She would also like to review the "user journey" of the website. Jessica wondered if the current website's members area was confusing for visitors - people might think that is how they sign up as a member of GT. Jessica plans to review this.

The conversation turned to the thermal imaging camera and Fergus confirmed that Sustainable Sherston would be happy for us to borrow it as and when needed for a £10 fee. Sustainable Sherston would provide GT with training on how to use the camera. There was discussion on how we would lend it out to people and that needs to be explored further.

Returning to the topic of social media, Jess shared that it would be good to revive the website blog and asked Fergus to write a blog piece on the Andrew Doherty talk.

Jessica raised the matter of the GT newsletter and who would write and co-ordinate after Maggie. Fergus said there wasn't currently anyone to take over and no one at the meeting volunteered to take this on. It was agreed that Gracie will put an appeal on Facebook asking for volunteers to help take this on.

Energy – John Turton shared with the meeting an online discussion that was held a few months ago with a few members of GT and an employee of Ecotricity on the subject of Anaerobic Biodigesters. Ecotricity is developing one near Reading. John and John Andrews did some calculations and concluded that a biodigester of Ecotricity's size would not be feasible locally, but perhaps GT could get involved in a smaller project. For instance, anaerobic biodigesters of an industrial size cannot be located in an AONB and must be less than 500m from the gas mains. John is looking to get in touch with Charlton Park estate, as

they have already installed one. John asked if anyone has contacts with Charlton Park to help him get in touch with them. No one at the meeting was able to help – contact John if you can help.

Judith and Ian raised concerns over how sustainable/green anaerobic biodigesters really are. For example, by growing large amounts of a single crop this would be a monoculture. John is aware of this and is looking into using garden waste.

John has been talking to a company about small biodigesters and the company is going to give a talk on Monday 20 June to him and anyone else from GT who is interested in finding out more. John is also researching biohydrogen.

Judith noted that she had seen signs about the [Cotswold Climate Investment initiative](#). It was discussed and viewed by the group as a positive move.

Discussion was then had around whether we should have project groups instead of themed groups (e.g. plastic, energy groups), which has been raised before. The pros of having project groups are that members might be more willing to be active if there are clear time frames and aims (rather than being part of ongoing work in a themed group). This might also attract more volunteers/members.

The matter of Whatsapp groups for GT projects was also raised. Gracie and Jessica to trial a Whatsapp group for PTTG and will feed back.

Food

Emmanuelle couldn't attend the meeting but gave Fergus an update to read out.

The Seed Swap took place once again this year and has been successful.

Emmanuelle would like to run the Great Big Green Week in September after the success of last year. She would like to start planning soon and anyone who is able to help with this should please contact Emmanuelle.

Emanuelle is also considering running another foraging walk if she has capacity.

Plastic

There was little to report on and is an area that needs to be reinvigorated.

Transport

Ben wrote a report on the inefficiencies of our local transport and as a result met with Hannah Fountain (CDC) & Peter Hardy (consultancy company), Judith Taylor, Nikki Ind, Stephen Hirst. They discussed the Tetbury – Cirencester via Kemble bus service and how it could be improved. Asked for Ben's views on transport hubs (could Tetbury or Cirencester become one?). Ben noted that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and CDC Transport plans have been created but without much funding behind them (currently). Ben is unsure about the scale of changes that might come around as a result of their meeting.

This discussion raised the dangerous placement of the bus stop opposite Audi and that the 40mph zone along that stretch of road should be reduced. Jessica and Ian both said they had seen and heard about complaints to both CDC and the property developers but there are issues over whose responsibility it is.

Ian volunteered to help raise awareness of dangerous bus stop and speed limit. It was noted that GCC is responsible for speed limits.

Ben to share report with Jess to add to the website.

Wildlife

Fergus said that he had spoken to Will Cook recently and that he would like to plant a 50m hedge on Preston Park with the help of community. GT to advertise and support planting event – likely to be in October 2022.

3. General discussion

Gracie gave an update on PTTG 2022 events in Mary's absence. A request for support was issued and a rota will be created and distributed for volunteers to add their names to.

GT has been asked if we want a stall at Westonbirt School on 5th/6th July (Fergus to confirm the date) Mary, Fergus & Jess will be attending.

4. End and date of next meeting

Action Group – 6 December 2022

Standard GT meeting 6 September 2022