

Sustainable Thornbury Annual General Meeting 21 May 2008 Minutes

Formal Business

Attendance: Elizabeth Vooght, Alan Pinder, Margaret Pinder, Paula Hunt, Judith Dale, Bob Dale, Marian Stephens, Howard Yeomans, Brett Harrison, Felicity Harrison, Kate Cannell, Nick Barnard, Di Barnard, Kate Hard, Val Harding

Apologies for Absence: Barbara & Raymond Day, Heather Witham, Clare Fardell, Claire Robinson, Jeff Gash

In the Chair's absence the Secretary took the meeting.

1. Minutes of last AGM + EGM

The minutes had been previously circulated and were signed by Treasurer as a true record.

2. **Chairman's report:** The secretary read the report in the Chair's absence. Jeff apologised for having to miss the meeting due to work commitments elsewhere in the country and thanked members for their contribution this year, particularly those on the committee. Report attached to the minutes.

3. **Secretary's report** attached to the minutes

4. **Treasurer's report** was handed out at the meeting. Paula reported that our major expenses were room hire and the cost of maintaining the website. As collections on the day rarely covered the cost of room hire, meetings had mainly taken place in members' homes. This had worked well in keeping the costs down. She proposed that this continue as long as members were willing to host meetings. The group has obtained a small amount of income recently through the sale of the town bag. Although the group spent almost £100 more than it took in this year, it remains solvent due to money in hand at the start of the year. It was agreed to put the financial year on a more formal footing with the year end at 31st April.

5. **Election of Officers** (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, any other posts as decided)

a. There was one proposal for Chair – Val Harding - one proposal for Treasurer – Raymond Day - one proposal for Secretary – Margaret Pinder. Last year we split the secretary role, with Val being minute secretary and Margaret doing the communication role. There were no proposals for minute secretary this year. Val, Raymond and Margaret were elected. It was suggested that the role of minute secretary could be rotated round members attending meetings.

Other roles

b. Membership Secretary – Kate Cannell

c. Deputy Chair – Bob Dale.

d. Community Orchard co-ordinator(s) – this role has been undertaken by Barbara & Ray Day. It was decided to confirm that they are willing to continue with this role when they are back from holiday.

e. Grow Your Own Food – co-ordinator Heather Witham

f. Website update – Heather Witham (Website development Heather and Alan Pinder)

Newly - Elected Chair Val Harding took over meeting

6. **Membership subscriptions for 2008-2009** were reviewed as required in the constitution. It was agreed that we continue to have free membership with the option to ask for donations if we need to cover specific costs.

7. AOB

a. Membership Secretary would like to update all records and will be sending out new forms for completion and return.

- b. Dates for diaries:
 - i. June 19th: Volunteer Fair. Members needed to staff a stall (with the Savings Club) between 9-1pm to promote our activities
 - ii. Sunday 5th October, Orchard Harvest Day at Winterbourne Barn. Volunteers are sought for apple pressing & juice making.
 - iii. Town Events in December – 6th and 20th. We have been invited to participate, particularly on 6th which will have sustainability as its theme. There will be another food fair on that day as well as other attractions. The theme on 20th will be a Festival of Trees. We need to give an indication as to whether we will take part although the details can be worked out later.
 - c. Alan Pinder raised the issue about whether we should have an informal committee to deal with administrative matters (such as finance, website etc) so that the general meetings could look at project work. After discussion, it was agreed that administrative meetings would be held half an hour before the start of each formal meeting. Officers would attend and any other members who would like to be involved in the administrative work.
 - d. Social event: a chance to view solar energy installations on Saturday afternoon 28 June followed by cream teas at Margaret & Alan Pinder's between 2-5pm. All welcome.
8. Meeting Closed at 8.20pm

Break for refreshments

After the break there was an opportunity to discuss how ST goes forward. The group came up with a list of ideas which will be collated by Alan Pinder and put to a further meeting in July to prioritise and decide. We hope to discuss more on Transition Towns and where we are in relation to them at that meeting also.

Next meetings:

Wednesday June 4th at Judith & Bob Dale's, 9 Crossway. 7.30 – administration, 8.00 full meeting to plan Give It Away-Take It Away Day on Sunday 8th June

Wednesday June 25th at Judith & Bob Dale's, 9 Crossway. 7.30 – administration, 8.00 full meeting to follow up ideas and plan next year's activities