

Sustainable Thornbury Annual General Meeting 20 May 2009 Minutes

Formal Business

Attendance: Elizabeth Vooght, Alan Pinder, Margaret Pinder, Judith Dale, Bob Dale, Marian Stephens, Gill Denning, Brett Harrison, Felicity Harrison, Chris Carter, Nick Barnard, Di Barnard, Val Harding, Jerry Harding, Barbara Day, Raymond Day, Maggie Jeffery, Bob Jeffery, Graham White

Apologies for Absence: Gavin Kent, Heather Witham, Clare Fardell, Jane Gilliard, Kate Cannell

1. Minutes of last AGM

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

2. **Secretary's report** was sent out with the agenda

3. **Treasurer's report** was handed out at the meeting and is attached to the minutes. Raymond indicated that we had remained solvent all year, helped by grant funding from South Gloucestershire and Thornbury Town Council. We would just have remained solvent without the grant funding but activities would have been curtailed.

4. Chairman thanked all the officers for their work this year, particularly Kate Cannell who was stepping down as membership secretary. She also thanked the many other members who had given their time and energies over the year.

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

a. There was one proposal for Chair – Brett Harrison (proposed Val Harding, Seconded Margaret Pinder) - one proposal for Treasurer – Raymond Day (Maggie Jeffery proposed, seconded Marian Stephens) - one proposal for Secretary – Margaret Pinder (proposed Brett Harrison, Seconded Barbara Day). All were elected unanimously.

Other roles elected on the night

b. Membership Secretary – Val Harding

c. Deputy Chair – Bob Dale.

Newly - Elected Chair Brett Harrison took over meeting

6. Proposed amendment to the Sustainable Thornbury Constitution

A proposal to amend the constitution to make 3 years a maximum term of office at any one time was made by Margaret Pinder, seconded by Alan Pinder. The proposal had been sent out with the agenda. The proposal was carried 17 for and 1 abstention. Clause 4.1 now reads:

Clause 4.1 The officers of the Group shall consist at a minimum of the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Group. The Annual General Meeting shall have power to elect other officers as it determines. All officers must be members of the Group. The minimum age at which people can act as officers of the Group is 18. No officer may serve more than 3 years continuously in the same post. An officer cannot serve again in the same post until one year has elapsed.

7. Proposed Human Rights Statement for adoption

As part of our membership of the Transition Town network, it is recommended that we take action to avoid the group being infiltrated by extremist elements by adopting the UN Statement of Human Rights. [to be found <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/Introduction.aspx>] The following statement was proposed by Felicity Harrison, seconded by Alan Pinder:

The Group supports the UN Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948).

Following discussion, it was agreed that the motion be accepted subject to the following amendment proposed by Bob Dale:

In the absence of any objections sent in writing to the Secretary within the next 7 days, we will adopt the following:

The Group supports the UN Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948).

8. **Membership subscriptions for 2009-2010** 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.

9. **AOB**

- a. Thornbury Carnival: Brett raised his concern that the Thornbury Carnival was not being developed in a sustainable way – including elements such as Red Arrows fly past. There was general agreement that the local nature of the Carnival was being undermined. We agreed that as we had got a long way down the planning for the event, we would continue for this year. If the event continued we would need to review whether we would want to be involved.
- b. Community Supported Agriculture. Brett reported that negotiations with local landowner, Paul Baker, of Rookery Farm Alveston were continuing. It is likely that proposals may be brought to the group in the near future.
- c. Thornbury FM – we have been alerted to the dates for the November broadcasts. Agreed that we would consider at the next business meeting with a view to being more proactive.
- d. Energy Neighbourhood competition had been valuable for those taking part. It may be possible for others to take part next year but this is subject to grants being available. It was suggested that we could try to run a competition locally along similar lines. To be discussed at future business meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.20

e. Dates for diaries:

- i. June 18th: Volunteer Fair. Members needed to staff a stall between 9-1pm to promote our activities and sell tickets for *The Age of Stupid*.
 - ii. June 19th, *The Age of Stupid* – 7.45pm, Cossham Hall, followed by Q&A session
 - iii. June 22nd, next business meeting. 7.30pm venue tba
 - iv. June 26th, next Saturday workshop, 1-5pm including bring & share lunch, Chantry
 - v. July 3rd, Castle School workshop (see below) 9-3pm
 - vi. July 4th, Thornbury Carnival
- f. Margaret Pinder fed back details of a meeting with Castle School attended by Elizabeth Vooght and Alan Pinder also. The school are holding a Sustainable Schools event on July 3rd for 10 local schools – it is intended to be a hands-on day with 4 workshops attended by all the children. The children are aged 5-16. Elizabeth will be running an art workshop based on papermaking and ST are invited to run a gardening workshop – taking cuttings, mixing compost etc. Following the July event, ST are invited to work with a group of pupils making up an environmental/sustainability club. Volunteers to meet with Alan Pinder to discuss the workshop and future participation. The school are also keen to hear Ian Page's talk on Peak Oil – arrangements are already in hand to give the talk to senior pupils before the end of this term.
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Break for refreshments – special thanks to Felicity and Alan who provided cake and wine for us to celebrate our transition initiative status.

After the break we added ideas (new leaves) to our transition tree – results to be sent separately.