

Transition Stroud - Council Meeting – Minutes of Meeting

Action

4 March 2009, Arts Space, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Present

Jim Quinn, Health Co-ordinator and Energy
Simon Allen, Business and Government Group, Co-ordinator Support
Nigel Westaway, Co-ordinator Support (chaired meeting)
Melissa Roussopoulos, Co-ordinator Support (flip charted discussions)
John Meadley, Transport
Helen Royall, Co-ordinator
Chris Harmer, Waste
Jackie Rowanly, Connections

1. Introductions

Nigel Westaway welcomed all to the inaugural meeting of Transition Stroud Council (TSC) and invited all present to introduce themselves and say why they were there and which Working Group (WG) they represented.

2. Agenda review and ground rules

Nigel went through the proposed agenda, and proposed ground rules for the meeting which were accepted.

3. Working Group updates

Those representing TS Working Groups gave an update on current activities. The following TS-wide points came out of this:

- There is a need for a central TS space; there is no single obvious place but paying for ad hoc meeting space is currently not sustainable.
- A review/evaluation process re TS impact externally is needed
- We need to think 'mainstream'
- A plan bringing it all together is needed (18 months?) (EDAP?)

4. Reflections on 'Getting Organised'

The following points were made:

- Central groups not existent yet
- Disappointment that not more WGs represented at Council and at odds with support expressed for CSG report
- CSG report is just first step, implementing it is now the challenge
- Attraction to WG different to attraction to 'Council-style' work
- TS not yet adding value to the WGs sufficiently – needs to offer funding, events etc
- Limited visibility of TS work
- Publicity needed to bring in more people and energy, but wait until we are clear about organisation
- Vision to be about TS adding value to the WGs, how centre does this
- Need to have a 20 year perspective for work of TS
- Process of work to get funding will have to involve idea of TS and specific projects

5. Company Registration

Simon Allen reported on 3 options for corporate entity, all acceptable to funders, summarised below (with thanks for support from Claire Mahdiyone):

Option	Registration	Pros and cons
Company limited by guarantee	Companies House	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simplest of the formal structures. 2. Needs memorandum and articles. 3. Limits liability of directors. 4. Annual accounts to be prepared and submitted. 5. Other Transition Towns using. 6. Can write in 'asset lock'
Community Interest Company	Companies House	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ditto above. 2. Ditto above. 3. Ditto above. 4. Ditto above. 5. No other TTs using 6. Provides formal asset lock 7. Less well known and established than above.
Community Association	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simple informal structure. 2. Need rules: eg nos of times meeting; officers appointments; purpose; decision making etc. 3. Unlimited liability 4. Need to keep accounts – funders want to see them, but don't need to be submitted. 5. Stroud FM used for first 4 years – then upgraded as necessary. 6. Can write in asset lock. 7. Lowest cost of all.

Discussion

- Costs:
 - Limited company: £45-60 initial set up. Annual Report £15.
 - CIC: £45-60 initial set up.
 - CA: £0
- concern expressed over issue of liability of individuals
- Memorandums and Articles of Association (M&A) could cost £500 via lawyers
- easier to get 'standard' M&A vs. defining ourselves

Decision: Company Limited by guarantee is the best option.

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Directors:

- 4 needed. Nigel, Chris, John and Simon offered.
- M&A needed
- Accountant/book keeper from day 1
- £45 - £60

6. Short-term funding

Discussion revolved around the options for securing short term funding

- Chris will give information on range of community funds available
- Simon researching other funds 19th March
- John offered to help with funding application

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- Get funding with another organisation?
- Clare M available as consultant – John a member of her organisation (Stroud Enterprise Centre)

7. **Paid Co-ordinator post**

Helen explained she will need to look for paid work soon. She will continue as TS Co-ordinator while she can.

Points discussed:

- Likely funding timescale – up to 6 months. Could be sooner.
- Job to be advertised – who to recruit?
- SVP could manage paid post admin.

8. **Open meeting/visioning**

CSG proposed early July for TS wide meeting

- Nigel explained purpose as:
 - to develop visioning
 - move towards strategy
 - get people's views on what they want from central group
 - to include all TS people to balance TS Council which is closed
 - opportunity to air issues

Discussion points

- Risk of not many people attending?
- TS Council getting on with practical things will draw people in as something to come to
- Meeting as celebration, energise people about what is going on
- 1 year bricks into 20 year plan/EDAP
- End of summer inertia

Decision: Late Sept/Early Oct 2009, to combine a celebration and TS business **TSC**

9. **Representation/running TSC meetings**

Deferred to future meeting due to time.

10. **Future TSC meetings and priorities**

Decisions to meet as follows:

- once a month meetings (1st Weds)
- Next:
 - 1st April, 7.30-9.30 Nigel's house (6 Castle Rise, right hand fork)
 - 6th May, “ “ “ “
 - 3rd June, “ “ “ “
- encouragement for others to attend Council

All

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Minutes by Melissa Roussopoulos and Simon Allen