

Transition Stroud - Council Meeting – Minutes of Meeting

1 April 2009, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Action

Present

Simon Allen, Business and Government, Co-ordinator Support
Phillip Booth, Energy
John Meadley, Transport
Melissa Roussopoulos, Co-ordinator Support
Jackie Rowanly, Connections
Helen Royall, Co-ordinator
Nigel Westaway, Co-ordinator Support (chaired meeting)

Apologies

Dave Cockcroft, Energy
Chris Harmer, Waste
Helen Nightingale, Food
Jim Quinn, Health and Energy
Molly Scott Cato, Lifestyles and Livelihoods

1. Open Homes

Phillip Booth gave an update on the Open Homes Exhibition, which is being expanded from its (already highly successful) format last year to potentially include a suppliers' fair, connections with the local library and links to other such national projects and Heritage Open Days.

£1,500 has already been raised from the District Council, and a further £500 may come from the Town Council. For the £500 to come to Transition Stroud directly it would need to be a registered organisation, preferably within the next month. Options were discussed including whether SVP could manage the funds on TS's behalf.

Discussions are also under way with a utility company to raise money for a leaflet. Various associated schemes may flow from this connection, capable of raising additional funds in the future. For more details, contact Phillip Booth.

- The Council agreed that the offer and conditions being proposed by the company are acceptable, and **Phillip Booth** will continue negotiations. **PB**
- It was also agreed that any subsequent funds arising through the connection with this company would be allocated as follows: 50% to go into the general Transition Stroud pot; and 50% to be ring-fenced to support a project by the Energy Group, provided that it is used within a year, after which time it will be re-allocated to the TS general pot.

2. Minutes

The Minutes from the March TSC were reviewed and finalised. There was a discussion regarding the appropriate amount of detail to include.

- It was decided that the amount of detail in the last minutes was about right, but that action points and decisions needed to be emphasised.
- A process was agreed to distribute the minutes:
 - **Melissa Roussopoulos** to type up and forward to Helen Royall. **MR**

- **Helen Royall** to distribute the minutes to all present for any comments/corrections within a week. **HR**
- **Helen** to incorporate comments and place the final version on the TS website in a new folder specifically for TSC minutes. **HR**
- **Helen** to let TS members know about the minutes by including a piece in her monthly newsletter. **HR**

It was noted that writing a newsletter is a complex process, which could be made more professional once there is a fully paid co-ordinator. For the moment, all are happy for Helen to continue with her current version.

3. Company Registration

- **Simon Allen** to look at models including other Transition Town's Memorandums and Articles of Association. **SA**
- **Melissa** to send Simon any relevant research already collected. **MR**
- **Simon** to draft TS Mem and Arts (approx. 95% will be standard, 5% will be specific to TS which will be the overall objectives for TS) – then to circulate these to all Working Groups for comment, to have agreement by the summer. **SA**

4. TS Finances

The current situation was discussed, in which there are four signatories to the account, but no clear process to agree how any accrued funds are distributed. It was noted that in the longer term a TS Treasurer would be needed and it would also be advisable to open a new TS account. However, to deal with finances for now:

- Any requests for funds (e.g. from the Working Groups or Helen) are to be put to the TS Council, which will agree them, then obtain the funds from the current signatories.
- **Simon** to consult with the current signatories. **SA**
- **Helen** to ask SVP if they could provide a sub account for TS to hold funds on our behalf. **HR**

5. Short Term Funding

Simon had attended a half day meeting which launched a new method for obtaining small lottery funds.

- **Simon** and **Chris Harmer** (agreed in his absence) to draw up a short list of funds TS could approach. **SA/CH**

6. Stroud Pound

This is due to be launched in September by the Lifestyles and Livelihoods group and training sessions are scheduled for those due to talk to local businesses about it.

- **John Meadley** to consult the Lifestyles and Livelihoods group regarding any issues of liability for TS as they set it up **JM**

7. Ashoka Video

Ashoka made a 6 minute film about Rob Hopkins as one of their nominees to be supported as an Ashoka Social Entrepreneur. It features three TS people and would serve as a good introduction for people to the transition issues.

- **Helen** to put a link to the film on the TS website. **HR**

8. **Stroud Credit Union**

John gave an explanation of their activities and requested to circulate an article through Announce to raise awareness of their work.

- All agreed it was appropriate, **John** to agree this with the Credit Union and provide an article. **JM**

9. **Nature Festival**

A suggestion had been put forward to have a party at this event on 18th July. It was felt that this could clash with the planned Open Meeting in September, which aims to be a celebration, welcoming of new people and moving forwards with a TS vision.

- TS to have a stall at the festival:
 - **Helen** to provide some materials **HR**
 - Working Groups to be asked to contribute
 - **Nigel** offered time on the stall **HR**

10. **Other business**

The **Stroud Food Hub** has applied for funding with the Local Food Fund (part of the Lottery) and this has been approved by the assessor and is to be considered by the committee.

Complaints Procedure

- Following a query, **Nigel** to check what was decided in the Getting Organised report. **NW**

September Open Meeting

- **Nigel** to prepare a draft outline process for this event by the next TSC. **NW**

Brief discussion about 'Transition Local Authority' as Somerset has recently declared itself as one. There was a lack of clarity about what this means, or could mean for Stroud.