

TRANSITION STROUD COUNCIL

Meeting Monday 20th October 2014, 7.00 for 7.15pm,
The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud, GL5 1DF

1. **Present** – Simon Allen, Helen Royall, Greg Dance, Erik Wilkinson, Crockett Creswell, Jon Barrance, Matt Zeal, Stephen Aiano.

2. **Decide on chair for meeting.**

Simon agreed to chair the meeting – Helen took notes in the absence of Mark

3. **Formal introductions and apologies.**

Seb Buckton, Philip Booth

4. **Approval of minutes** of last meeting, 23rd September 2014

Approved (group not quorate)

5. **Intro from Stephen Aiano**

Cotswold's Choice - A new 'environmental quality' brand aimed at promoting landscape-friendly local produce and products in the Cotswolds; promoted by the Cotswold Conservation Board who support the food economy of the Cotswolds. The Cotswolds Choice brand will recognise the high standards of environmental and landscape management for which farmers and landowners in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are renowned, helping consumers to choose and support foods and products that are so much a part of what makes the area special.

Funding – Conservation Board / SDC / volunteers.

Website <http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/publications-news/newsview/647>

6. **Review of AGM**

Feedback from those present and verbally reported by presenters and attenders –

- Generally positive – pleased to have a platform to talk about their organisation
- A lot of work for one person – should be spread around to others.
- Combine more with Winterfest ideas.
- People need microphone
- Not so well organised towards the end
- More ways for people to talk to those who were presenting their organisation.
- Slides on screen distracting
- Invite people earlier
- Someone said the 7.00 – 10.00pm timing on the invite was an off putting amount of time for a Sunday evening

Other written feedback by email appended.

Short film by Peter Richardson much appreciated – Simon to enquire if a few changes could be made. **(SA)**

7. **Brief updates.**

- **Film showings**

Film dates Nov 9th / Dec 7th / Jan 25th / Feb 22nd / Mar 22nd / April 26th Subjects confirmed where possible.

Jon has sent a list of films to CAT, inviting them to attend.

James was thanked for the work on this.

- **Funding and project updates**

Stroud in Transition leaflet – launched at AGM. Thanks to Imogen Shaw for the excellent look of it. Erik has 10,000 (7,000 going out in mailing from Stroud Town Council).

Stroud District Council -Simon writing half yearly report for SDC (re.£1500 year grant for 3 years).

- **Tour of Britain stall**

Paul Flynn reported back. Ad hoc stall – some new sign ups. Rather quick event at short notice but nice to be part of it.

- **Website**

New look website. All now up to date. Thanks to Helen, Seb, Greg for getting it up to date. Thanks to Mark Strevans for completing site.

Nicky Fyleman has updated our **Facebook** page, Helen, Seb and James are now keeping it up to date. Thanks to Nicky for her work.

- **Zero Carbon Britain.**

Report from Jon Barrance – 9 people came to talk at the sailing club on 19th October, including 2 from nuclear industry.

Has contacted Simon Pickering re. talk to SDC Environmental Committee. (JB)

Please give Jon ideas for talks. Would like farming contacts. (HR to introduce JB to JM)

- **Book Group**

Met on Sunday. James will report and update website. (JB)

- **Outreach**

Talks pending at end of year.

- **TS Stall**

Gail, Jon, Greg, Helen, Katherine Halliwell and Jane Brown met to discuss ideas for a TS stall.

Gail will send notes from the meeting. (GB)

8. Finances

Although our funds are healthy in cash terms, current grant income situation means it will be difficult to continue paying Helen and Seb a regular amount after December. Greg suggested try for crowd funding. Any other ideas for funding sources welcome.

9. Any other business

- CC - Stroudco have been nominated for Taste of Gloucestershire Food and Farm Awards. (<http://www.digital-thisis.co.uk/gloucestershire/taste/>). We wish them well. Crockett and Sarah will be representing Stroudco.
- CC - Crockett is trustee of Open House. Linking with Stroudco to open a shop (CIC) on High Street. Aims – give work experience to young people / give Stroudco a collecting space / support and promote local producers / assisting people to grow own food (in partnership with Down to Earth). Sarah working from office in shop.
- EW - Erik trying to get article (re. leaflet) into local newspaper.
- EW - New working group – Wind Turbine Action Group. Arising after workshop. Also Steve Rush ran a tool sharpening workshop – very successful.
- MZ - REconomy Event– Matt not willing to put a date to an event at present as not identified enough volunteers able to commit time to it, Matt needs to get to know Stroud better before this can be done. May need funding. Very early days for Matt here. Better timing likely to be 18months hence. Also talked about criteria for business – private? Social enterprise etc? Totnes event discussed – this focussed on social enterprise organisations and the meeting supported this. Also noted that Totnes team have a centre – like The Exchange – where they have regular talks and workshops. (EW to consider STC intro, SA ditto SDC)

10. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 18th November, 7.00 for 7.15. Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud. – Main topic: **'Where are we and how we go forward? Group audit.'**

Helen Royall, 21 October 2014

Appendix

Review of AGM - Feedback from presenters (anonymised).

Date: Wednesday, 15 October 2014 19:54

To: Simon Allen <simonallen99@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Stroud-in-Transition 2014 Celebration of Sustainability on 12 October

Hi Simon

It was a great event. Thank you and all the team for all the work that must have gone into making it happen.

Yes if you have the energy it would be great to do it again next year. One suggestion might be that each initiative that has given a 2 minute presentation then hosts a drop-in q&a session at one of the small cabaret tables (maybe with a flag for each initiative) during desserts and punters are encouraged to go and find the presenters to find out more.

Yes we have had few new orderers this week – so thanks again for the opportunity to promote

Big appreciation for the whole TS team

Thank you

Date: Thursday, 16 October 2014 00:05

To: Simon Allen <simonallen99@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Stroud-in-Transition 2014 Celebration of Sustainability on 12 October

Hello Simon,

Thank you for the invitation; Les and I enjoyed the evening, and the food was wonderful, especially the vegan pastries. I'm glad you enjoyed my little talk. I'm sure the leaflet will bring in some more members for Stroud. I think an annual get-together is an excellent idea, as you have so many varied projects that it might be the only way some people would get to find out about everything that is happening, and to meet the people involved.

Feedback

It may be worth asking if some people were unable to attend because of the location - ie, unable to get upstairs. If there is access to the room for the less able, then it would be good to know about that, and publicise it a little.

It might be a good idea for future events to remind people to label their food for known allergens.

It seemed to me that the displays on the stage were a waste of time - few people went up there to look at them, which was a shame. Maybe if there had been more displays, people might have been more tempted to have a look.

I would like to have seen people wearing name badges. My husband said - and I agree - that there were a few projects there we would like to have learned more about, but didn't know who to approach.

Putting the leaflets on individual tables worked well - I came home with a carefully chosen sheaf of them.

I feel that the screen in the background was somewhat distracting, and could have been better if reserved for those talks where it was essential, eg the hub.

All in all, a very successful and enjoyable evening.

On Thu, Oct 16, 2014 at 8:48 AM,

Hi Simon

No probs doing the talk, I hope you found yesterday evening useful

I think it was a good event, although I do always feel slightly overwhelmed by the amount that Transition Stroud is doing (Clarified later as in an admiring way! SA)

Yes a celebration next year would be good . . . one thing that is essential would be a mic and use hearing loop for those that are hard of hearing like John M

cheers