



GREENER BERWICK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 29/08/23

1. Present: Linda Pepper, Elaine Paterson, Liz Wilcox, Sue Richardson, Laura Hawken, Joel Arnold, Martin Laidler, Colin Elliot, Tansy Clift, Jo Hart, Tania Willis
2. Apologies: Nigel Foster
3. Minutes of 5 June meeting and matters arising: Minutes agreed. Noted that merger with Berwick climate and Nature (BCAN) is in progress. Colin reported that the Alnwick green festival – What a Wonderful World – was very good, and the performance element attracted many young people.
ACTION: Sue to contact Juliana to confirm whether Berwick info all included in Borders Green Map
4. REPORTS from ACTION GROUPS
 - a) TRANSPORT – members have updated bus stop info to assist NCC in keeping this up to date and following recent zoom with NCC they will take account of our transport survey results for future funding bids to improve cycleways etc
 - b) ESTUARY POLLUTION – 6 members continue to monitor Estuary algae monthly. Liaison with Northumbrian Water (NW) continues and NW have agreed to hold another public meeting end October to explain their latest business plan (date TBA) ACTION: Elaine
 - c) SINGLE USE PLASTIC – this group has achieved its aim of getting the single use plastic free status award through 15 business sign ups. The group will disband for the time being to focus on other activities but ACTION: Sue (and others) will contact supermarkets to discuss improving facilities in their stores for depositing plastic film that is not recyclable in blue bins.
 - d) COMMUNITY GARDEN – Jo reported that 2 recent funding bids have not been successful but more will be made – until funding achieved there can no further progress. Jo to watch for funding bid opportunities ACTION: Jo
 - e) ZERO WASTE – Tania reported that the first repair café will be held at Salvation Army building, Church Road, Berwick 9 Sept 10-1pm. Going forward there is the possibility of Town Council funding for the repair café. Northern Soul café doing cakes for the event – donations requested for cakes/repairs. Tania will visit E Linton repair café to see how they run their facility. ACTION: Tania
 - f) WARMER HOMES – Martin reported that the group have delivered leaflets/talked at doors of many house in Greenses area about availability of energy saving grants. 21

people have indicated interest in applying to NCC for a grant, but currently waiting NCC response. More funding required for any further Warmer Homes group activity and ACTION: Martin will look for funding bid opportunities

5. EVENTS – past and future

- a) Food Festival (FF) report back: Greener Berwick had 2 Gazebos at FF, with info, and with activities. Good footfall and many useful conversations – 33 new sign ups to be network members and Eco Church wants to be involved with GB. ACTION: Laura suggested a meeting of GB FF volunteers to gather feedback to give to FF organisers. Advance planning and marketing by GB needed for next year, if involved in FF again, one gazebo enough, and repairs to gazebo needed due to wind damage. Liz suggested putting info remaining from GB stall at the FF in empty shop windows. Many thanks are due to all the Greener Berwick volunteers at the Food Festival: Tansy Clift, Sue Richardson, Jo Hart, Judith Warren, Jane McDermott, Liz Wilcox, Martin Laidler, Linda Pepper, and special thanks to Laura Hawken and Joel Arnold for all the preparation they undertook prior to the festival (as well as attending) which enabled its success.
- b) NCC climate team event 14 June. Objective was to gather views for an updated climate action plan, but no evaluation of previous/existing plan was available so hard to make progress without that. ACTION: Pepper to chase feedback from NCC
- c) Future Film showings: Possibilities include Nature Matters and Finite – ACTION: Pepper to contact Maltings re possible showing of “Finite” as GB require more funds first. Will return to discuss Nature Matters following more funding.
- d) AGM/Social – agreed a POT LUCK social. Suggested dates: Nov Thurs 16 or Fri 17th. Possibly to be held at Parish Centre. ACTION: Pepper to contact Mike Wilson re Parish Centre. AGM would be 6pm followed by social at 7pm.
- e) Market Stall – Town Council will be running Berwick market in Marygate shortly and want one stall available for alternating charities/community groups. Agreed GB could have stall on occasional basis. ACTION: Pepper to contact Mike Greener re arrangements

6. FINANCE

Liz reported current balance is £296

ACTION: Elaine has contacted Friends of the Earth re accessing their funding for Climate Action Groups and will apply if this is still possible – but amount is likely to be modest.

ACTION: Martin, Tania, Jo and Liz will all look at funding opportunities for their own areas of activity.

7. ADMIN

Google Drive – agreed would be useful to have google drive accessible to all for storing docs. Currently not accessible to all. ACTION: Elaine to include call on newsletter for someone to look at making google drive accessible to all.

Publicity List Sharing – Martin suggested this could go on google drive when available to all

Elaine reported clarification needed on the different membership categories. ACTION: Elaine to include clarification for website and newsletter (network vs full members – latter must join an action group, and consequently be invited to committee meeting too)

8. AOB – Colin reported Divestment meeting in Alnwick 6 Sept and N Northumberland Network meeting 23 Sept St James community centre 10am ACTION: Elaine to include in newsletter

Elaine reported FOE newsletter 27 Aug includes link for letter to send to local MP to ask government to desist from supporting fossil fuel interests ACTION: Elaine to include link in newsletter and to MM for website

9. NEXT MEETING: Monday 16 Oct, first floor granary 7pm ACTION: Pepper to book room

Elaine Paterson 30.8.23