



GREENER BERWICK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 05.06.23

Present: Elaine Paterson, Linda Pepper, Liz Wilcox, Sue Richardson, Martin Laidler, Joel Arnstein and Laura Hawken

Apologies: Tansy Clift, Colin Elliot, Jo Hart, Tania Willis

1. **Minutes of March meeting** and matters arising. Minutes agreed. Matters arising: Google Drive not currently active, insufficient interest in using it, especially as website has facility to store documents. Northern Soul Kitchen – GB is grateful for offer to hold meetings here when not in use as a cafe, but has not been taken up so far due to many practical issues.
2. **ACTION GROUP report backs**
 - a) **Transport** – Sue reported that meeting re bus timetables and other bus matters with Mark Easton of NCC has been followed up with members of transport group checking bus timetables at bus stops to see if they are up to date – it was found this is patchy and will be reported to NCC. Transport group have also asked for real time running at Golden Square, as happens elsewhere in Northumberland. The survey by the transport group showed cycle route between station and leisure centre is problematic. Sue, Judith and Elaine walked the route recently and noted issues/made suggestions for NCC to look at. Judith is writing up and sending to NCC
 - b) **Estuary Pollution** – Elaine reported that algae monitoring for the Environment Agency (EA) continues with 6 volunteers every month. Following a recent press report that £50m has become available to tackle the storm water overflows (CSOs) in the estuary the group has had correspondence with Northumbria Water (NW). NW has confirmed this is NOT £50m for CSOs but the amount in their entire business plan for some years ahead, covering various items. NW will be looking at possible improvements to CSOs over the next 2 years but currently no commitment to any specific actions, despite evidence of brown sludge floating in estuary. Joel suggested sending as many pics as possible to NW and EA – ACTION: Elaine to include this suggestion in newsletter

- c) **Single Use Plastic group** – Sue reported no progress in getting the award system for businesses reducing SUP up and running due to change in admin arrangements. ACTION: Sue will pursue with Juliana
- d) **Warmer Homes** – Martin reported good progress following a meeting with NCC. NCC keen to work with GB to publicise the current energy efficiency grant programme. This needs to be done quickly as applications have to be made by end of July. Warmer Homes group have produced leaflet and poster, and on 17th June at 10am, meeting at Pilot Inn, there will be mass leafletting in Greenses area where properties more likely to be eligible for grant. ACTION: all to contact Martin if anyone can help on 17th via info@greenerberwick.org.uk (FAO Martin Laidler)
- e) **Community Garden** – Liz reported that licence has been signed with NCC to take over space at Chapel St and Foul Ford for community planting. Joel explained that the next step is to ask nearby residents what they want done and if they can help. Some of the existing planting will be removed – digger needed – Elaine suggested contact builder Michael Richardson ACTION: Joel to contact M Richardson
- f) **Zero Waste Group** – Pepper reported visit to Duns repair repair café where sewing features strongly – suggests this is good place to start. Meanwhile Tania is having discussions with various parties and the Salvation Army building in Church St may be hired to kick off the Berwick repair café in the autumn.

PAST EVENTS

Going Green Together (GGT) presented to GB and Berwick Educational Association (BEA) members on 25th April. GGT run courses for voluntary bodies, but Sue reported that none seem particularly relevant for GB, and expensive

XR event “The Big One” in London end April – Pepper and Tania attended (as did one of our members as a result of attending the GB showing of film “Rebellion” recently). The purpose of the event was to mark a change in XR tactics to be non disruptive. Around 100,000 people attended over 4 days, demonstrating at the Houses of Parliament and major government buildings.

World Environment Day 5 June – no reports of any action in the Berwick area

Tyne and Wear Pension Fund demo follow up – Elaine reported that following the demo at NCC Morpeth end of March re divestment from fossil fuels from the pension fund, Glen Sanderson has agreed a follow up meeting on 27June with head of finance. GB has been invited ACTION – anyone who can attend please contact elaine.m.paterson@googlemail.com

FUTURE EVENTS

National Big Green Week 10 June – GB not participating this year as focus is now Food and Beer festival in August

NCC Climate Team event – 14th June Maltings 5.45 – to gather views on NCC Climate Action Plan

Alnwick Green Festival – What a wonderful World – 30 June- 2 July

Possible film showings – Finite – costs £200 or Nature Matters costs £75. Either might be possible in the autumn ACTION: for August 29th agenda

Food and Beer Festival 18-20 August – all in Parade, not barracks this year. GB to have two stalls, one for info on action groups and one for activities. Small group (Pepper, Jo, Liz, Joel and Laura) to decide on activities. ACTION – each action group leader to produce information on their own action group (or related visual material) for the stall by early August and forward to info@greenerberwick.org.uk (FAO Linda Pepper) Volunteers will be needed for this event: more to follow

FUNDING

Liz reported current balance is approx. £700. Next meeting will consider future funding, depending on agreed priorities for activities.

Berwick Climate and Nature (BCAN) merger with GB

It was agreed that this merger should take place following a request by BCAN. This will simplify the Green activity offer in Berwick. Mike Wilson who led BCAN wishes to set up a new GB action group around “Climate Conversations”.

Borders Green Map

Tania has gathered info for Berwick from members and Liz to input to the overall map set up by Juliana at Sea the Change in Eyemouth. A Borders Green Map roadshow displaying locations of all things Green in the Borders will be held in Duns on 17th June 10-12noon

Coordinators

No volunteers have come forward to replace Pepper and Elaine following a year of doing the job. Pepper and Elaine have agreed to do another year, but suggest GB might thereafter look at action group leaders rotating the role on an annual basis.

Community Engagement – Liz is keen to see more, including a social. This will be discussed at August 29 meeting

Next meeting: August 29 at 7pm Granary first floor

Elaine Paterson, joint GB coordinator