



GREENER BERWICK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 04.03.24

Present: Elaine Paterson, Linda Pepper, Colin Elliot, Sue Richardson, Jo Hart, Tansy Clift, Nigel Foster, Martin Laidler, Liz Wilcox, Joel Arnstein, Laura Hawken

Apologies: Tania Willis

Minutes of 19/1/24 meeting agreed, and no matters arising

ACTION GROUPS Reports

Estuary: Elaine reported ongoing algae monitoring continues. Still chasing for more feedback from EA and waiting for EA/NW to arrange water ranger training. It appears NW offers grants to community groups which we should consider in future if, say, we want to purchase water monitoring kits. Elaine wrote to AMT to point out 27 new bathing beaches designated recently but Haven Beach, Berwick application was rejected without reason given. Elaine asked AMT (who did support Haven Beach app personally) to try and get a reason, and ask again for its inclusion in the light of so many others being agreed.

Transport: Sue reported meeting with the new rural transport officer, Richard Froggett. He does not appear to be interested in buses or cycling so it is unlikely our agendas will merge in terms of working together. Elaine has written to Neil Easton at NCC to request feedback on progress with real time running at Golden Sq, possible summer park and ride using the B1 and asking about Bus Ambassador role. The group is helping to promote the now later running B1 service by distributing leaflets. Judith and Sue are following up on cycling issues with Ed Clark. Colin has undertaken the Cargo bike training, and he reported ideas for use of this bike are welcome via Tracy Atkin at NCC climate team

Plastics: Although this group is disbanded some activity around the subject continues. Big Plastic Count week starts 11th March and all are encouraged to participate – google to get info. Some supermarkets have been approached to encourage better plastic recycling and more obvious containers for this (the film type plastic that can't go in blue bins). Pepper is in contact with Shona, community champion at ASDA, re encouraging ASDA to have plastics recycling containers, and Sue with Morrisons. Everyone is encouraged to communicate with whatever supermarket they go to if the containers are not in an obvious position.

Community Growing: Jo reported work has started on Chapel Street beds, and the group has a new member, John Reed. A display in the library is proposed to allow community

engagement. Funding needed for tools. Pepper reported that ASDA has gardening tools to loan out.

Zero Waste: Tansy reported that the last repair café was a bit quieter, but still reasonable attendance. Next one is 23rd March. St Andrews church has been identified as a place for tool storage, so can start buying for tool library. Sue reported a new outfit in Tweedmouth called Shab2fab that carries out repairs – more info available from Sue.

Warm Homes: Martin reported that the group continue to leaflet once a month re energy company grant offers and insulation schemes. There is an online energy ambassador course – Martin, Joel and Laura doing this and Colin has done it already. £500 to do city and guilds level 3 course, the next step if FoE grant can be obtained. Possibility of working towards provision of an energy advice centre – Selkirk do this already but with paid staff. A start could be made by having an energy advice table at the repair café possibly.

PAST EVENTS

Northumberland Council for Voluntary Action (NCVA) strategy meeting with Greener Berwick took place early Feb but no report back yet from the organiser, Marc Johnson. One more strategy meeting, possibly 21 March am, will take place to look at constitution, policies and the way we organise ourselves. (action: Martin)

FUTURE EVENTS

AGM – suggested date 29 April. Outcome of strategy meetings with NCVA will be on agenda as well as targets for action groups (3 points from each). Also proposals for events for coming year, with wider members invited to comment on these.

Northumberland Green Hub (NGH) – workshop 6th April 10am Alnwick community centre – contact Colin Elliot for more info. NGH has a whatsapp group that can be signed up to (info from Colin), but no website as yet

Events programme for coming year – suggestions so far – 6 max and preferably low cost due to current funding situation: 2 speakers eg Environment Agency on citizen science, Friends of the Earth on their work locally and nationally, talk on use of biomass in power stations (including Lynemouth locally), Food Fest stall 16–18 aug, stall at charities event in Guildhall, beach cleaning with beach BBQ, Xmas social.

FINANCE

Liz reported approx. £400 current balance.

Martin will make funding bid to FoE for Warm Homes work

The meeting warmly welcomed offer from MM to offer some voluntary time to update website. This will be kept under review depending on our funding situation, and Nigel kindly volunteered to be involved at some point if need be.

Making funding bids is time consuming and there is a problem with getting core funding for running/admin though this can to some extent be incorporated into bids for projects. The newsletter should put out a request for 1) anyone with funding bid experience to come forward and 2) ideas for an independent auditor to verify our finances who might work pro bono. Laura has kindly volunteered to take over producing and sending out the newsletter. (action: Laura)

ADMIN

Google Drive: Colin has offered to be overall manager. He will produce amended notes of the training session he gave last month with step by step guide, and clarifying access. (Action: Colin)

Safeguarding: online training for all committee members encouraged, takes 25 mins. Contact Martin for link. (action: Martin). The safeguarding policy we already have on our website needs amending so everyone is aware who is currently the designated safeguarding officer, with their phone number to contact (Action: Pepper)

Coordinator Roles: Elaine and Pepper listed the tasks of the current coordinators in writing attached to the agenda. New coordinators, (not yet known), who might vary the tasks, to be proposed and agreed at AGM.

AOB – Elaine noted new Green umbrella group for Scottish Borders – **Scottish Borders climate action network, (SBcan)** funded by the Scottish government with 2 fte posts. SBcan have a large event on March 14th at Tweed Horizons, St Boswells 10–3pm with many stalls and talks

Greener Duns have a make do and mend event on Sunday morning 17 March at Volunteer Hall, Duns. Lots of stalls on reuse and repair, and bike maintenance.

Next meetings possible dates: 21 March for strategy meeting with NCVA, and G Berwick AGM 29th April (action: Martin and Pepper for room booking)

Elaine Paterson and Linda Pepper (Coordinators)