



GREENER BERWICK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 16.10.23

Present: Linda Pepper, Elaine Paterson, Tansy Clift, Martin Laidler, Laura Hawken, Joel Arnstein, Colin Elliot, Tania Willis, Jo Hart

Apologies: Barbara Jean Borthwick

Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed

Matters Arising:

Berwick info now on Berwickshire Green Map

Warm Homes day of action: market stall on 18 Nov (ACTION Martin) £100 contribution from FoE likely for this event

NCC consultation on updating Climate Action Plan – summary of consultations around Northumberland now available (ACTION Pepper to circulate) Still no evaluation of existing NCC climate action plan

Tyne and Wear Pension Fund Disinvestment campaign – Elaine reported that Olwyn give updates – 10th Nov meeting 11am at South Shields Town Hall – lobbying to take place. TWPF invests £238m in fossil fuels but does not give members a voice. Closed meeting, no campaigners can be present at the meeting, but will be online. NCC still considering its position. Also 9th Dec COP 28 rally in Newcastle.

BCAN – Pepper reported that Mike Wilson is not yet ready to join up with GB but he will contact us when he is available.

REPORTS from ACTION GROUPS

ESTUARY GROUP – Elaine reported that algae monitoring continues and 2 new volunteers have joined recently – Barbara Jean Borthwick and Rosemary McKenzie. Elaine is still pressing Northumbrian Water (NW) for an update meeting – promised by end of Oct. Wider meeting to report on NW business plan now not until next year after OFWAT have agreed (or not) NW latest business plan including action on storm water overflows.

TRANSPORT – Elaine reported that cargo bike now available for business and other users – contact details now on GB website. Town Council might be organising a booking system.

Sue reported that another meeting will be held with Neil Easton NCC public transport officer, after GB members have done another bus timetable survey update. Real time running info at Golden Square will be pressed for too. Cycling issues along the route from the railway station to the leisure centre (from our public survey and walking the route) have been relayed to Ed Clark, NCC cycling officer for inclusion in bid for gov funding for improvements.

Colin noted that an alternative cycle route should be looked at (ACTION Colin to provide sketch map to Judith Ward)

ZERO WASTE – The first Greener Berwick repair café was held in September and all considered it a very good start. 19 people had repairs done. Second repair café on sat 21 Oct at Salvation Army hall in Church St 10-1pm

WARMER HOMES – Martin reported on warm homes action day (as above). As yet only one successful grant application to NCC for home insulation – Martin pursuing what is happening with other applications made. Future campaigning will involve promotional work through the energy companies.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS (SUP)– liaison with supermarkets. Sue reported all have some containers for SUP but not all are very visible, Aldi is best. Elaine suggested that all should be persuaded to have info at checkouts to make customers aware. ASDA manager coming to repair café on 21st so discussion can be held with her then. (ACTION Sue and Tania)

COMMUNITY GARDEN – Jo has designed 2 flower beds and has emailed local businesses to generate funding. This has been really successful with around £200 being offered currently, possibly more to come. Jo has met with PITH (local small sketch book business that donates for tree planting) – they want to fund Chapel St garden area including signage. East Ord garden centre will give discount on plants.

EVENTS (PAST)

GB at Food Festival in August – Pepper reported there has been 20 sign ups to Greener Berwick newsletter (and so be network members) at the festival, and 7 sign ups since then. A total of 156 are now currently network members. We will decide in the N Year if GB will have a presence at August 2024 Food Festival, and if so in what form. Sue suggested maybe a regular market stall instead.

Coat of Hope – went well. Liz organised a pot luck supper for the visitors who came with the Coat of Hope touring the UK since COP26.

Tweed Forum Films on the Parade 12 Oct – interesting council and community gardens were featured Jo reported

EVENTS (FUTURE)

3rd and 4th Nov – POWER UP (coalition of climate groups) action days on fossil fuel divestment. ACTION – Elaine to send link for website, social media and mailchimp for sending letter to local MP.

Fri 17 Nov 7pm. Parish Centre, The Parade, Berwick. GB Social “ Getting to know each other, bring food to share” ACTION – Jo, Laura and Pepper to put wording together for advertising this event, and send to Elaine for website, social media and mailchimp.

Sat 18Nov Warm Homes day of action (see above)

Fri 8 Dec at 7pm –hoping to have an environmental film showing by GB at YHA, Granary, Berwick. Pepper to source film (c£75) and book room at Granary. More details shortly. Advert for this needed (ACTION – Pepper for wording)

FUNDING

Current balance approx. £800 including recent generous donation of £500.

Elaine has made funding bid to FoE for £495

Funding fair at Rugby Club 18 Oct. Various Trusts will be present who will give tips about potential funding bids. Jo, Martin and Liz attending.

Warm Homes – £100 from FoE for say of action on 18NOV

Liz has made funding bid for zero waste group re repair café.

ADMIN

Google drive. Colin has helpfully tidied up docs on google drive. Agreed good idea to have google drive available although it is not being used at present due to access problems, and alternatives such as website adequate for some purposes. Chloe helpfully sent a link but for longer term use it is thought that a password and user name is needed to ensure it is easy to access. ACTION – Colin to ask Chloe for further advice/written instructions. We need advice on whether someone is required to manage the docs/files on google drive too.

AOB – North Northumberland network meeting – Colin reported that he attended and a wide range of orgs were present. A Northumberland Green Hub will be established mainly for sharing documents/resources.

DATE of NEXT MEETING: January 2024, date TBA. The social on 17th Nov and film with discussion 8th Dec will act as meetings with wider network membership in the meantime

Elaine Paterson 19.10.23