



Saving the world one village at a time...

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 12 November 2011

Present: Brycchan Carey (BC); John Mercer (JC); Peter Condon (PC –Minutes); Mike Brettle (MB); Sarah Sanders (SS)

Apologies: Nick Hardiman; Alison Blake

1. Action points of the minutes of the last meeting (28th May 2011) were reviewed. All action points had been acted upon, except two one of which was not longer relevant as Sebastian Kindersley had not been available to attend July GEAG meeting. The other, concerning a leaflet drop was included on today's agenda.
2. Membership; BC opened a discussion, the salient points of which were:
 - a. Overall membership is good at about 80 members on the mailing list; but active membership – i.e. those who come to meetings and get involved is low.
 - b. Reiteration of procedures: Committee members are decision making body, not general membership meetings
 - c. General membership meetings should only go ahead if there is an event or a presentation taking place. JM agreed on this point, but also raised the issue that GEAG 'deliverable projects' (e.g. cycle path; transport survey) need a forum for discussion within GEAG. SS raised the point that GEAG also has an equally important purpose in raising awareness of green / ecological issues to the village community; general agreement on this was expressed.
 - d. BC raised a concern that we are not able to guarantee that a representative of GEAG attends appropriate regional meetings (such as SPEPS or CRIFF or other regional forums of potential interest). BC further extended the role to reporting back on regional meetings, possibly to the extent of canvassing village opinion on important issues by 'knocking on doors'. JM extended the discussion by suggesting that Gamlingay would benefit from a carbon emissions 'mission statement'; something along the lines that Gamlingay would set a target to reduce carbon emissions by x amount in y number of years. A good deal of discussion took place over some of the points raised at c and d above and it was decided that a major GEAG publicity event should be planned for approximately March 2012 and held in the newly opened Eco Hub. Some of the points mentioned included:
 - i. Use the Eco Hub to publicise the aims and work of GEAG. Bring in some guest speakers. SS suggested we could obtain a benchmark figure for household / village CO2 emissions. MB best placed and willing to obtain these . BC mention that whatever we do, Gamlingay is already a village that key environmental regional organisations (e.g. SPEP) have their eye on because of projects like the wind

Gamlingay is already a village that key environmental regional organisations (e.g. SPEP) have their eye on because of projects like the wind turbine and proposed photo voltaic project on farm land

ii. MB said that using the thermal cameras would help to determine the village CO2 footprint.

iii. JM thought a carbon reduction award scheme would be something the whole village could get behind.

3. GEAG major publicity event

a. Resulting from all the above discussion it was decided that GEAG should plan a major event to take place in the EcoHub in about March next year.

b. A framework outline to get this started has been agreed:

i. We build a village campaign around a working title 'Measurable, deliverable carbon targets'

ii. On Wednesday 16th November we begin consultation with Siobhan Mellon (SPEP – Sustainable Parish Energy Project) who will be addressing the meeting, about this campaign and in particular about recognition of achievement – e.g. Some kind of prize that the village could win for achieving targets

iii. We conduct a spring leafleting campaign to publicise the event

iiii. MB will obtain benchmark targets for CO2 reduction over set time period for a village the size of Gamlingay to provide a realistic and accurate statistical starting point.

v. We start to think about a like minded public figure who could talk at the event

vi. Work towards a January leaflet campaign to publicise the event

vii. BC to e-mail members the Gamlingay Gazette pages where there is advertising about the event (and, perhaps all pages where GEAG news is printed)

4. Report for Transport survey

a. Although not present at the meeting Nick Hardiman has provided the results of the transport survey to BC. It was decided that a full report of the survey results should be produced by either or both NH or BC. This report will be ready for the next edition of the Gamlingay Gazette which will be delivered to households in February. Closing date for submission for that edition is 4th January 2012.

5. Relating to item raised at 2.d. above, BC wondered if we can aim to guarantee that a committee member will attend important regional meetings – e.g. SPEP

6. AGM

a. The 2011 AGM will take place on Wednesday 16th November and BC informed the Committee of some items that will be raised:

i. Proposed minor changes to the GEAG constitution

1. Dispense with the notion of setting up working parties to address issues:

1. Proposed minor changes to the GEAG constitution

1. Dispense with the notion of setting up working parties to address issues; but to replace that with named committee posts that will always need to be filled. These posts would include the likes of: GEAG co-ordinator; GEAG EcoHub representative; GEAG Green Living Advisor; others to follow at AGM.
2. Make a clearer distinction between Committee business and General meeting content
3. Notify some new posts that will need to be filled

The meeting closed at 12.15pm