



Saving the world one village at a time...

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 13th October 2010

Present: Brycchan Carey, Mike Brettle, Nick Hardiman, John Mercer, Sarah Sanders, Alice Hardiman and Alex Day

Apologies: Chris Barker

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes approved. Actions all completed. Update: Chris Barker taken on Carbon Group Co-ordinator role.

2. Reports:

a) Co-ordinator (inc. response to RSPB and SCDC Climate Change Consultation)

Steady intake of new members, circa 60 in total. Website growing well with 2 new pages covering what GEAG stands for and what its position is on village issues. Decision taken to submit response to South Cambs District Council's Climate Change Consultation – GEAG would like to see continuation and expansion of the SPEP project, clear measurable targets and clarification on resource allocation by the Council for climate change and sustainability projects (Mike to submit response). Decision taken to re-word letter of support for RSPB's new visitor centre plans in order to show support for visitor centre in principle and emphasis desire to work with the RSPB in next stages of the project (Brycchan to write up, send to others for approval and submit to RSPB).

b) Treasurer

Still solvent (c.£30). Submitted claim to Gamlingay PC to reimburse funds incurred by GEAG (Decision will be made 26th Oct by Gamlingay PC)

c) Transport (inc. survey and sustrans)

Good response to survey – electronic and paper copies combined c. 45. Nick to periodically collect any completed forms left at PC offices. Alice will ask Fay at Crafty Cupcake if she would have copies of survey in shop. Nick will co-ordinate a Saturday morning surveying session (11am – 1pm) with a team of 4+ from wider GEAG

membership. Brycchan will prepare leaflet detailing how to complete the survey electronically to hand out on Saturday session.

With regard to cycle path project - disappointment with Sustrans efforts in recent months – no communication. Decision taken to look at funding streams primarily from local planning developments (inc. Green End, Station Road and Tesco's Sandy) – Alice to liaise with Amanda Crack (RSPB) on timeline for Tesco's consultations.

d) Carbon

Report read by Brycchan in Chris's absence. Monitor loans going well and request to continue spreading message about their availability.

e) Eco-hub

John reported that a new limited company formed to oversee management of Eco hub – John to be part of this group. His role will continue to enforce the inclusion of green and eco credentials within the eco-hub project. ExCo highlighted the importance of the GEAG voice within the eco-hub project.

3. Scrutiny of constitution in advance of AGM.

Brycchan suggested a change to constitution at forthcoming AGM: "members are entitled to vote at meetings as long as they have been a member for 28 days". John will propose change at AGM on December 15th.

4. Planning

a) Green End

Agreed that middle option (mixed light industrial and residential dwellings) was the most suitable. Concerns over access routes to estate. Brycchan urged everybody to give individual feedback for consultation which closes the end of October (all details of consultations are on GEAG website). Brycchan will form the GEAG response for the consultation. Suggestion to propose that developer provides parking for existing dwellings on access route to avoid congestions and on-street parking.

b) Turbine

Will discuss openly at next week's GEAG meeting (20th October) and take a vote. Proposal to support the principle of wind generation of energy because it meets the three tests – supporting the global environment, local environment and build a stronger community.

c) PR

Gazette – make source of publicity. Mike happy to continue however running low on conten. Alice and Nick suggested article about their ‘sustainable – low-carbon’ holiday to Italy by train. Deadline for next Gazette article beginning of November.

d) Events and Meetings

RSPB speaker planned for Jan/Feb 2011. Suggestions from ExCo included Optimum Population Trust, FOE, Greenpeace, discussion on biofuels, local food co-operative talk (Gemma – Sustain). Also, there was suggestion for action events including swishing (clothes swapping – ethical virtually guilt-free shopping) or cadge-it events (swapping gadgets). Alice and Alex to look into hosting a swishing event April/May 2011.

f) Socials

Decision to have a Christmas social (proposed date Friday 10th December). Alice will liaise with Fay at the Crafty Cupcake about holding a special supper evening with food supplied and a bring-a-bottle policy.

5. AOB

n/a