

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

Held at the Gamlingay Eco Hub on 20 January 2016

Present: Laura Bambini, Chris Barker, Vicky Brettle, Peter Condon, Jennifer Doherty, Nicola Jenkins, John Lanchbery, John Mercer, John Mossman, Daniel Pullan

Apologies: Mike Brettle

1 Reports from Committee Members:

- Acting Coordinator:
 - More than two hundred on the GEAG mailing list by end-2015; five or six had joined during the year, mainly at the Gamlingay Show, bringing the total to 206.
- Planning and Development:
 - Still waiting for details about the Green End development; what had happened to the initial application, as approved by GEAG?
 - Gamlingay needed money if it is to commission professional consultations for drawing up an effective Local Plan.
- Transport:
 - Dial-a-Ride not well used, not well publicised.
 - BikeBus Explorer: John Mercer would write to Clare Gibbons, SCDC, for an update on the BikeBus service.
- Carbon and Energy:
 - RSPB turbine due for erection soon near The Lodge.
 - 2015 was warmest year ever.
- Cycling:
 - Sky Rides (www.goskyride.com) a way of getting groups cycling.
 - Breeze (www.goskyride.com/Breeze) for women only cycling.
 - Bikes to Cambridge seeing scant use; what publicity is there?

- Hatley:
 - The Hatley shop would remain open for another 2 years.
 - Reminder about the Hatley Big Weekend 24–26 June 2016.
 - The Mobile Library still called at Hatley; anticipated cutbacks in service were still under discussion by Cambs County Council.
 - A planning application was in progress for a composting toilet in Hatley St George churchyard.
 - The play equipment in Hatley St George would need replacing before long.
 - The Parish Council was applying for funding for a moveable speed sign.

2 Treasurer's Report

- The accounts were in good health; report attached.
- Jennifer agreed to audit the accounts.

3 Proposals for Change to Constitution

- There were no proposals for changes to the Constitution of GEAG.

4 & 5 Committee Resignations and Elections

- The Committee resigned; the following Committee Members were nominated and elected:
 - Coordinator: John Mercer (also SPEP representative).
 - Treasurer: Peter Condon; deputy: Vicky Brettle
 - Secretary: Chris Barker
 - Carbon and Energy: Mike Brettle, deputy Vicky Brettle.
 - Planning: Daniel Pullan
 - Publicity: Nicola Jenkins
 - Ecology: Laura Bambini (when available)
 - Hatley Representative: John Lanchbery.
 - Ordinary Members: Jennifer Docherty and John Mossman.

- Website: Chris Barker
- Events, Transport, Wildlife and Conservation, Cycling, Social Media and Good Life Day remained vacant for the moment.

6 Appoint Auditor

- None at the AGM was eligible to act as auditor.
- Chris Barker agreed to ask Julia Barker to do so. [request accepted]

7 Any Other Business

- GEAG meetings would continue to take place on the third Wednesday of the month – in the Eco Hub.
- One meeting annually would take place in Hatley, perhaps before the Big Weekend.
- John Mercer would issue a quarterly newsletter, and other news items, by email to all GEAG members.
- John Mossman was in the process of organising a visit to the Waste Management Park at Waterbeach, on a date to be decided (probably a Friday, during the day). [now arranged for 10.00 to 12.00 on 15 April 2016].
- Committee members would inform other members of the committee of dates of events of interest; on agreement they could be added to the website calendar.
- Chris would share the calendar with members so that they could add events to the calendar.

8 Press and Magazine Coverage

- Articles for the local magazines were needed well in advance of their publications dates, normally 6 weeks minimum.
- Nicola asked everyone to provide her with GEAG information that should be publicised.

9 Website and FaceBook/Twitter

- Chris was encouraged to email individuals to obtain stories and information for the website.
- Consider including information from John Lanchbery's November 2015 talk on COP21.
- Chris would continue to provide input to the FB and Twitter pages for GEAG.

10 Speakers for the Future

- John Lanchbery would lead February's meeting in a discussion of COP21.
- Mike Brettle had offered to lead a meeting on shale gas for the 16 March meeting.
- The following were suggestions for future meetings:
 - Subjects of the moment.
 - Presentation on bats (Laura Bambini).
 - Wildlife Trust (Sian Williams).
 - Woodland Walk.
 - Green Deal update.
 - Curlew Rescue (ask Sarah Sanders to return for this).
 - Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer, SCDC.
 - John O'Sullivan (ex-RSPB International, Hatley resident).
 - Siobhan Mellon of SCDC's Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP).
 - Good Life Day.