



Saving the world one village at a time...

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting At the Gamlingay Eco hub on Wednesday 15th January 2014

1. Present: Brycchan Carey, John Mossman, John Mercer, Anna Mercer, Peter Condon, Bridget Mappley, Jennifer Doherty, Dora Querido, Mark Leaf-Grimshaw, Emma Leaf-Grimshaw
2. Apologies: Sarah Sanders, Chris Bowden, Chris Barker, Carly Thorn
3. Meeting opened at 20:10.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting: were accurate but in need of renumbering and 10.1 to be corrected to 'Chris Barker appointed as auditor.' On the basis of these amendments, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by John Mercer, seconded by Peter Condon and approved.
5. Business arising from the last minutes: no business arising.
6. Reports from Committee Members
 - 6.1 Co-ordinator's Report -Brycchan Carey

Extraordinary how much GEAG have done in the last year. Expectations of the future of the village are changing. There are now 157 members, up from 106. There are also 10 business/ institutional members. Attendance at meetings and stalls has been good.

GEAG is communicating better, Bridget Mappley has set up and is maintaining a Facebook page. There is also now a presence on Twitter which appears as a news board on the website. The website itself is generating 2 to 3 enquiries a month.

Events have included Green Day 2, speakers, Gamlingay Show, Hatley Fete and Gamlingay Church Fete. There is a hope to attend these events again in 2014. There has been a Bring and Buy (donate) feature to the stall which has generated interest and increased donations to the group.

There is now a wind turbine in the village which some members of GEAG have had involvement with. The UK is reported to have produced 10% of its energy via wind power in the last month and Gamlingay is positively contributing to this.

This time last year there were several uncertain planning applications. There is now a Draft Local Plan which Brycchan Carey responded to fully. The council seems to accept that the Station Road building works is enough development in the near future for the village. The Lupin Field has been proposed to be accepted as a Local Green Space. At this time growth in the village seems to be at an appropriate level.

GEAG is still loaning out energy monitors to villagers, which is positive.

6.2 Green Day Rep Report - John Mossman

Green Day 2 was modelled on the previous year but with enhancements. Children's activities were offered with the help of Jennifer Doherty, Dora Querido and Emma Leaf-Grimshaw. The day was very well attended with an estimated 150 people passing through the doors. Catering was successfully provided by the Eco Hub. Many opportunities on the day, national energy prices had risen shortly before, so the timing of the event was excellent.

Positive comments were received on the day and an excellent video can be viewed online. Danfoss reported that they were busier than some trade days they attended.

Trips to the wind turbine and allotments were thoroughly enjoyed.

Thanks and well done were given to John Mossman

6.3 Ordinary member with special interest in The Eco Hub - John Mercer

Finances with the Eco Hub are on track, a slight loss at the end of the first, full, unsupported year. There were lots of major purchases made, so proud to have done so well.

Reach to the community is huge. Section 106 monies will soon be used to build the planned extension.

A new feature is the Gamlingay cinema, with huge screen and popcorn, so please support it!

Last year an architecture award was won, this year a Building Control Award for East Anglia.

The technology is working well, overall things looking good.

A discussion about need for an Eco Hub rep within GEAG, it was agreed that things would remain as they are. There was clarification about GEAG's room hire arrangements with the Eco Hub.

6.4 Transport Rep - Bridget Mappley (Nick Hardiman stepped back 6 months ago)

Bridget has taken this up and attended meetings about cycle routes with 20:20 vision. Also about mini bus style transportation.

6.6 Carbon Tsar - Mike Brettle

6.7 Cycling Rep - Sarah Sanders

The National Bike Week ride in June was very successful. One attendee was so inspired he founded the Gamlingay Griffins cycling club. There will be another similar activity this year.

Discussions are ongoing with Sustrans regarding the cycle path extension from Potton to Gamlingay. This would be part of the Oxford to a Cambridge route. Grants are currently being sought for a feasibility study.

7. Treasurer's Report - Peter Condon

Acceptance of the report was proposed by John Mercer and seconded by John Mossman, this was carried and the accounts accepted.

Huge thanks to Peter Condon.

8. Constitutional Changes

There is now a bank account, requiring 2 signatures. This necessitates a change of the constitution to include the role of Assistant Treasurer.

Proposed by John Mercer, seconded by Peter Condon, all carried. Change to constitution effective immediately.

9. Group Officers

9.1 All officers resigned.

9.2 The following officers were (re-)elected.

Coordinator: Brycchan Carey.

Treasurer: Peter Condon

Assistant Treasurer: Jennifer Docherty.

Transport: Bridget Mappleby.

Green Day: Emma Leaf-Grimshaw.

Carbon Czar: Mike Brettle.

Cycling: Sarah Sanders.

Wildlife and Conservation: Dora Querido.

Ordinary Member: John Mercer.

Ordinary Member: John Mossman.

Ordinary Member: Carly Thorn.

There remains 2 vacant posts.

Acceptance of officer elections proposed by Anna Mercer, seconded by John Mercer, all accepted.

10. Mark Leaf-Grimshaw agreed to act as auditor of accounts.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 The secretary role was discussed. The co-ordinator absorbs the majority of this role. It was agreed that minutes would continue to be shared on a rolling basis.

12. Meeting closed at 21.25