



Minutes of the AGM of Sustainable Villages
Held on the 22nd November 2011 in Uffculme Village Hall

Apologies: Christine Mason, Derek Tomas, Mike Hilson, John Craythorne, Richard and Tess Wiltshire, Pat Bell, Keith Tarbox, Nicola Clewes.

Present: Gill B (Sec), Pete B(Treasurer), Phil and Rachel Hart, Ann Hill, John and Dawn Hampshire, Peter Smith, Gavin Scott, Jenny Willan, Gary Cook, Frances Hilson, Gill Gale, Sally Chapman, Shelly Rolinson, Mary Ryan, Richard Brailsford, David Buss and Tim Malyon.

The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted.

The Chairman's Report Derek sent his apologies as he was unable to attend due to illness and the report was read out by Gill. The report welcomed everyone and said that 2011 had been another successful year.

"Since the last AGM we have held an Energy Fair in Uffculme School where we had various trade stands and approximately 350 visitors. Neil Parrish our local MP opened this for us and he spent a fair amount of time looking around too. The event was a good day with lots of interest being shown in alternative energies.

In February David Buss hired a thermal imaging camera and spent his evenings going round taking digital photos of houses showing where the heat loss was and how bad. Thank you David, they were, as they needed to be, cold nights for you to stand out there with the camera.

We held four tree pruning courses which were all full so we now have many people who can prune trees properly. About 30 fruit trees were planted in Village Hall and local school grounds, the money for this coming from the grant that we received for last year's Apple Project.

Several other skill sharing workshops were run this year and many thanks to Dave Regester and David Curnow for giving up their time and expertise for the Tool Sharpening and the bicycle maintenance ones. A basket making course was run in Uplowman Hall earlier this year too.

The Freecycle continues to run smoothly and effectively and we now have a recycling box in Tiverton Library for the new energy efficient light bulbs, this is part of the National Recolight Cobra scheme.

Last but not least we had another Apple Fair in Sampford Peverell last month where we were very entertained by the Sampford Tray Morris Dancers and the Wasp in the Apple Band. This year saw a few more trade stands of local produce and over 700 visitors over the day. I have been told that we made over 1,000 litres of Apple juice. Thanks to a bumper crop of apples and a dry and sunny day our volunteers were kept very busy tending the apple

presses. They all worked very hard and I would like to thank them all very much. You did a grand job and - see you all again next year?

Apple juicing also took place at Heathcoat and Sampford Peverell Schools with the children and the PTFA taking part with the pressing and the fresh juice was then sold to the parents by them.

In the coming year we are planning an Open Space Meeting, a possible ECO fashion day, more skill sharing workshops and hopefully the talk on climate change with Rob Varley and of course another Apple Fair.

A successful year which we couldn't do without all of you and your help, so thank you one and all and here's to next year – let's make it successful too."

Treasurers Report (attached)

Pete said that the year ran from the 1st September 2010 to the 31st August 2011. Included in the report was last year's Apple Fair and not the one that we have just had. He said that things are looking good. We started out with £3,046.96 which included the grants for the Make Do and Mend and for the Apple Project. Our own funds were £603 at the beginning of the year but are now £2,043.80. The grants have been spent and we made £1,440 through the year. This was partly because of the ways the grants work in so much that we are able to keep any money made at the events for which we had grants. The Apple Fair made £100 this year and having some money means we can finance other projects. Not everything makes a profit, on some we run at a loss.

The accounts were accepted by all there.

Election of Officers:

The group was asked if anyone wanted to take on the any of the three roles and the Derek, Pete and Gill all said they were happy to stay on.

Chair – Derek Thomas

Secretary – Gill Bowers

Treasurer – Pete Bowers

Proposed: Ann Hill

Seconded: Jenny Willan

All agreed.

AOB

Richard Brailsford asked what the aims of Sustainable Villages were.

Pete answered that according to the constitution the aims of SV are:

1. To raise awareness of the issues associated with the twin challenges of Peak Oil and Climate Change.
2. To support and encourage local initiatives and projects that help to make the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable future.

3. To support and co-operate with other Transition Initiatives and similar community led schemes.
4. To engage with other organisations, including statutory, voluntary and commercial where appropriate in pursuit of these Aims.

Richard suggested that we had boards with information on to use at events as he hadn't seen anything at the Apple Fair. Usually we have information on Transition etc but hadn't had them at the Apple Fair this year. He also suggested a database of expertise and that we joined facebook. Richard offered to set up the facebook.

Peter Smith offered to give a talk at some point on where our energy comes from and how it gets to our homes as he said most people really don't know what is involved. He had been on a similar one and had the pack from it.

Sally Chapman said that she was organising an ECO Fashion day in the spring where we would re use clothes and asked for volunteers to help organise it. Rachel Hart volunteered to help and Tess Wiltshire had volunteered by email.

A sewing machine maintenance course was asked for in the New Year as well as the other skill sharing workshops to be organised. Gill said she would ask the group if anyone had the knowledge or knew anyone who had the knowledge to run it.

The AGM closed at 8.30 and the film "The Economy of Happiness" was shown.