

Sustainable Villages Annual General Meeting
On 29th January 2014 in Halberton Village Hall

Apologies: Sue Godfrey. Ann Hills

Present: Derek(Chair), Pete B(Treasurer), Gill B(Secretary), Tess & Richard Wiltshire, Gill Gale, Christine Mason, Sally Chapman, Rosalie Chamberlin, Jacqueline Foster, Natalie Morrow, Susanne Larson, Rosemary Broomfield, Kitty Britton, Teresa Pointing, Stuart & Helen, Delia Kennedy, Neil Purves, Pat Bell, Rita Baledo, David Playfair, Jo Shipton, Paul Adams, Lee, Stephen Pyne,, Shane Bowsall, Luna North, Emily F, Baruch Livneh, Shaun Chamberlin.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted

Chairman's Report:

The last AGM was held on the 8th November 2012 and this one was postponed due to computer/email problems, which meant that we were unable to let anyone know that it was happening. With those problems behind us, I'd like to welcome you to this belated AGM.

It has been another busy year with lots of different things going on. Another swishing event was held in November 2012 in Tiverton but this one was poorly attended. It was decided that it would probably be better to hold it in one of our villages and in the evening next time.

Our website is now up and running with many thanks to Pete Stafford for doing this for us. He kindly still loads up the Recycle for Free and the minutes of the meeting for us while Richard up loads news of any events coming up.

Jenny put a lot of time into trying to get the Cold Harbour Mill Community Electricity up and running but this fell through. The other Community Electricity project also came a cropper when the Met Office objected to the site of proposed wind turbines near Sampford Peverell saying it would affect their meteorological data. After a talk from Jake from Communities for Renewables and Jodie from Regen South West ideas were considered about supporting Cold Harbour mill with solar panels or water turbines but so far this hasn't progressed.

Community Beekeeping: a site was found and cleared. Hives were cleaned and erected and the bees have been moved in. A group of volunteers are looking after the bees, with a few of them either doing or having done bee keeping courses. We are currently waiting anxiously to see if the 2 colonies make it through the winter months.

For Climate Change Week last year a 'Give or Take' event was organised in Tiverton Market. This was in March and was very successful. Another one was held end of October/beginning of November with plastic recycling as well and this too proved to be very popular and again very successful. Richard, Tess and Sally all worked hard on to make it so.

Greenham Reach Project: Zoe from the Ecological Land Cooperative came and talked to the committee re this project, planning approval for which had been turned down by Mid Devon District Council and the was appeal coming up. Several members went to the appeal and gave their support. The appeal was won and permission granted in April. We shall hear more about this project later this evening.

Monthly Market: Having run for over a year, it was decided that the time wasn't right for this. Many different stall holders had come over the time but getting buyers in had proved too difficult and it was decided to stop doing it for now.

Ann organised a talk on the Green Deal in May and although the talk was good and informative, again not many people came to it.

A grant was received from HogCo which was used to purchase equipment for the bee hives and also a food dehydrator. The dehydrator is for lending out, and is a good way to preserve fruit and vegetables. So please ask if you would like to borrow it.

Skill Sharing Day June 15th: Several stall holders came and many people shared their skills such as cheese making, cordial making, bread making and there were lots of things to taste. Recipes were put on the website for people to download. About 100 people showed interest which wasn't too bad but a few more would have been even better.

Recycle for Free: After much deliberation, and after finding that Freecycle was a trade name, Recycle For Free was born and is thriving.

Apple Pressing Day October 26th: Another very successful event and a busy day for all who worked at it. This year it had been intended that people bring their apple and juice them with the helpers “helping” more and “doing” less. A few stallholders came too and it all went well. Many thanks to all our volunteers who help rake the field, put the Gazebos up and work really hard all day. Without you and our cake makers the day would never happen. The apple pressing equipment has also been loaned out to several individuals with orchards, and other community groups. So it continues to get well-used.

Treasurer’s Report: See attached accounts.

Peter said that the accounting year ends August 31st 2013 so the Apple Fair in the accounts would be from the previous year which was a bad year. Bad for apples, bad for weather. We had two Apple Fairs, in Sampford Peverell and in Uffculme. We made a loss of £475 and this is the first time we have lost money on these events. We had some funding for the dehydrator and the bees and have taken subscriptions for the bees and this, for this setting up year, made a small loss. In the future it should be self financing. The account is still healthy although the auditor mentioned that the cash we received have no receipts so no way of checking it. It would be difficult to give receipts as most of it is in the form of donations.

Accounts accepted as a true and fair view: Proposed: Christine Mason
Seconded: Gill Gale
All agreed.

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Sally Chapman
Nominated by: Tess Wiltshire
Seconded by: Pat Bell
All agreed.

Treasurer: Peter Bowers

Secretary: No one wanted to stand for this and it was suggested that the Committee have “Floating “ Secretary.

Election of steering Committee: Tess Wiltshire, Richard Wiltshire, Pat Bell, Rosalie Chamberlin, Christine Mason, Gill Gale, Derek Thomas. Teresa Pointing

AOB

Pater said that we had had offers from people to give talks on Fracking, wind turbines and Straw bale buildings. We also had films which could be shown and if anyone had anything they would like to see or do to get in touch with the committee.

The meeting finished at 8 pm and then Shaun Chamberlin gave a wonderful talk on the Ecological Land Cooperative and their new venture at Greenham Reach. After that the Bring and Share Supper was served.