

Minutes of Meeting of Sustainable Villages Steering Committee
4th December 2012 at 3 Higher Town, Sampford Peverell at 7.30pm

Apologies: Sally, Tess and Richard, Christine and Peter Smith
Present: Gill B Pete Bowers (Chair), Tim, Jenny, Ann, Derek, Gill G and Peter Stafford

Minutes of last meeting were accepted.

WEBSITE Peter has very kindly designed our website with input from Richard. Peter said that someone will need to take over the upkeep for it and to keep it fresh. He also offered to set up Facebook and a Twitter account which will be dormant until we are ready to use them. He asked if all the committee members were happy to have their names on the website and Pete B will email the list to him. There is a link to the Transition site and a link on Transition to our site. It was suggested that we had a link to Crediton and Pete B will let Peter know once he has spoken to them.

To see the site Google – Sampford Peverell Sustainable and then you can put it in your favourites or you can link from the Transition site.

It was suggested that on our Freecycle list we have the website address and possible a policy statement on what we think of things. Crediton have one on Wind Turbines. **Pete** will email page to everyone for us to read.

Plus future events to be put on – Give and Take, Food skill sharing workshops, beekeeping. That area is a bit sparse at the moment.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Open Space No further forward but Gill G said she felt it needed a sub-committee. Peter S and Sally and Tess have volunteered to help before so Gill will get in touch with them. Gill G said she had been to a meeting in Exeter. Someone there had a food forum every couple of months – another avenue to look down? Gill G and Ann said they would try to go to a food forum.

Cold Harbour Mill Project – Jenny organised a meeting with Peter Fish and Gary Cook. It looked like it was all going ahead and then she got an email from Robin who is a director to say that the mill no longer wanted to proceed. He hadn't let Peter Fish know and it all got a bit difficult. Also Robin's email had set up a lot of doubts in Jenny's mind. So, it looks like it isn't now happening.

Apple Fairs or Autumn Fair – This was reported on at the AGM.

Community Bee keeping – Christine is still trying to find right place. She has organised a meeting at the Merriemede on the 12th January in the afternoon (2.30 – 4.30) for people who want to be involved. At least one expert will be there and Christine is busy making displays. The churchyard is not a viable site anymore but Holcombe Rogus may have their own bees too.

Community Orchard - at Fenacre Bridge. Still waiting for planning permission

Transition site - There is a link to our own site.

District Council – Gill G said she had had a discussion with Mr Conningham from Crediton. Crediton has “natural links” with councils. Gill is going to invite Mr C to a meeting to see if we and Crediton can work together.

AGM – Not a great turnout. Venue – ok but no alcohol allowed and the film was a bit heavy going.

Community Electricity – Pete reported on the meeting with landowners and with Jake Burnyeat of Communities4Renewables. He explained what Communities4Renewables had done for Ladock in Cornwall and indicated that the Sampford Peverell site looked promising. His proposal is eagerly awaited.

Swishing – Report Sally’s report on the event in Tiverton said that the event was well publicised and well organised but poorly attended. Ann thought this was because we didn’t have the contacts there. Sally said that a future event may be better if it is in the evening, ladies only and with entertainment in one of the villages.

Climate week 2013 – Richard and Tess had suggested that we hold a “Give and Take” event in this week which was agreed.

AOB Gill G discussed some ideas for getting a sympathetic group going in Tiverton. For further consideration.

Tim said that he was planting 5,000 saplings to replace conifers cut down for timber and firewood.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 16th January at 3 Higher Town at 7.30 Gill G will ask Zoe Wangler to attend and talk about the Greenham Reach.