

Minutes of Meeting of Sustainable Villages Steering Committee
16th January 2013 at 3 Higher Town, Sampford Peverell at 7.30pm

Apologies: Christine, Derek, David and Peter Smith

Present: Gill B, Pete Bowers (Chair), Ann, Gill G, Tess, Richard, Sally and Zoe.

Minutes of last meeting were accepted.

Zoe Wangler of Ecological Land Co-operative spoke to us about the Greenham Reach Project. There are three plots in Holcombe Rogus which are being set up (subject to winning their appeal on planning at the end of this month) for low impact, organic life styles. The co-op was set up to help smallholders struggling with the paperwork etc. They want to make affordable small holdings but there is also a research element to the project too. They were looking at how to make a living from the land and could possibly sell to community box schemes or at Farmers Markets. The Planning Appeal is to be heard on Tuesday 29th January from 10 am at Tiverton Town Hall. The public may attend and you can ask to speak to the meeting.

After a log and full discussion the committee members unanimously agreed to support the project. Zoe said she would send us an email with links to all the documentation. She would appreciate our support at the hearing.

<http://ecologicalland.coop/greenham-reach-appeal-documentation>

<http://ecologicalland.coop/greenham-reach-small-holdings#P1>

If you would like to contact the Planning Inspectorate ahead of the opening of the inquiry, the Case Officer is Rachel Owen on either rachel.owen@pins.gsi.gov.uk or 0117 372 8598. Our reference number is 2181807 (Greenham Reach).

Above from Zoe's email FYI

Matters arising from the minutes.

Open Space – Presently on hold.

Community Bee Keeping – A very successful event had been held on 12th January. **Christine** is to arrange the next step.

Community Orchard - The Canal Rangers have been otherwise occupied and nothing more has been heard of this scheme at Fenacre.

District Council – Gill G has yet to progress this.

Community Electricity – Peter said that a second meeting had been held between the landowners for the potential Wind Farm Site, Jake Burnyeat of Communities 4 Renewables, Peter B and Tim and Peter S on behalf of sustainable Villages. All agreed to take the project to the next stage, which involved the landowners signing a 6 monthly exclusivity agreements with Communities 4 Renewables, allowing the latter to make the preliminary “make or break” checks e.g. MOD, aviation, sit access and connectivity to the Grid. If this is successful then SV would have a leading role in trying to get the local community on-side. With regard to large scale solar, Sally gave an update on the Ash Thomas proposal. She suggested that we should form a best practice statement for large scale solar, which she and Ann would research.

Climate Week – We agreed that our event for this week (4-10th March) should be “Give and Take”. Richard and Tess suggested trying to get the use of an empty shop in Tiverton. The following team would meet up at R & T’s on 21st January at 4 pm to progress the idea - Richard, Tess, Gill x 2 and Sally.

Website – These minutes are to go on the website. Although more work needs to be done, it was agreed that it was an excellent start with thanks to Pete Stafford. Richard said the Peter will pass on the site administration to us soon.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 20th February 2013 at 3 Higher Town at 7.30