



Sustainable Cottenham
 Notes from the Management Committee Meeting
 held at 19.30 on 26 January 2021
 remotely via Zoom



Present: Clare Adamson, Catherine Burch, Beth Fleetwood, Jane Heath, Justin Hiscock [chair], Peter Pilbeam, Vicky Lacey
 Apologies: Chris Ward

1.	<p>Minutes of last meeting 16.03.20 [not 28.01.20 as noted on Agenda]</p> <p>a. The Chair summarised what was covered at the March meeting, since when most of SusCott's activities had been in abeyance.</p>	
2.	<p>Finance</p> <p><u>Year-end Accounts to Dec 2020</u> had been circulated. Catherine outlined the format with restricted funds for projects shown in separate columns. Grants had been paid in last year, but the pause on activities meant little had been spent leaving a surplus on project funding.</p>	
3.	<p>Updates</p> <p>3.1 <u>General/Communications</u> – SusCott status as Charitable Incorporated Organisation confirmed on 25.03.20. Four founding trustees – Chris, Justin, Jane, Catherine. Charitable objectives noted. [Constitution can be viewed on website]. Currently 18 members [Vicky has completed a form to sign up but form has ?gone missing – Chris to check please or send new form]. Three brief newsletters had been circulated to members during year. FB followers numbered 292. Getting as many FB 'likes' as possible helps to increase the page visibility, so please everyone 'like' SusCott posts. Vicky advised that the frequency of posts is key to building impact and reach – suggested a concentrated focus eg posting every day for one week. Sharing posts also helps/adds to traffic – Beth will look out for items to share. Clare volunteered to help with social media postings; subject to agreement with Chris, she would join CW and BF as FB page administrators. These three to liaise re monitoring and coordinating posts.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Eco Eats</u> – Working Group [JHea, JHis, CW, CB, AS] had met four times since March. JHea reported on CSF Food Waste Challenge and campaign last Oct/Nov. Had been a testing ground for trying to get local residents and groups involved. WG still provisionally planning for Festival weekend in the October 2021. Vicky flagged up national Food Waste Action campaign by WRAP during the first week of March – aiming to reach 10 million; supermarkets etc involved, ?including Coop. SCDC is supporting this campaign – VL would send details/share posts.</p> <p>3.3 <u>Plastic Free Cottenham Sub-Group</u> - JHea noted minimal level of PFC online activity since March. SAS had been promoting individual litter picks and instagram campaign Return to Offender; also good online education resources. Litter in places around the village and roadsides had got worse; some residents [including Justin] have been collecting, with borrowed pickers from Chris. [This was thought allowable within current lockdown rules.] Agreed we encourage this by FB posts with photos – Vicky & Beth volunteered. Coop's new coffee machine may be an added source of litter – could Coop incentivise use of own cups? JHea to ask Stephanie Hall, Coop community pioneer. Agreed to set up informal PFC Sub-Group meeting. Beth to contact members and set date.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Sunday Socials</u> – The CCF grant has been deferred and the socials would be restarted when possible in the new Village Hall – due to be handed over in Feb. Chris has applied to the Nat Lottery Connections Fund for a grant to buy chairs and tables, to be stored by and shared with the PC.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>All</p> <p>BF CW, BF, CA</p> <p>VL</p> <p>BF, VL</p> <p>JHea BF</p>

4.	<p>AGM</p> <p>Agreed to hold the first SusCott AGM in week of 8 March, date subject to Chris's availability. Need to prepare/finalise annual reports - financial and general – and mail out with notice of meeting at least 14 days beforehand. Trustees to liaise re process for appointing any additional trustees.</p>	CW, JHea JHis, CB
5.	<p>Protecting/Improving the Natural Environment</p> <p>Discussion touched on potential targets for action by SusCott:</p> <p><u>Fen Biosphere</u> - Peter had attended a conference on this proposal headed up by Cambs Acre and encompassing a huge area. Not clear as yet on scope for action locally. Peter knows Biosphere chair Roger Mitchell and could arrange for a talk by RM to group at suitable occasion. Beth said Cambs Acre is supporting the PC to create a wildlife pond at the Old Recreation Ground [Broad Lane] and fruit tree planting at Wild Field.</p> <p><u>New developments</u> – ‘net gain for nature’ provisions included in planning agreements – eg community orchard in RedRow scheme - but how effectively are they implemented and followed through? The Wildlife Trust and PC are statutory consultees; but for the PC, there are so many pressing matters to negotiate the needs of wildlife are low on the list. SusCott may be able to exert pressure as an independent group as well as contributing practical advice/help. The starting point is to monitor the planning process [can be tracked on PC website] and intervene early.</p> <p><u>Parish Council</u> – provision of swift boxes for new Village Hall illustrated scope for supporting PC with expertise [and in this case legacy funding from the Cottenham Environment Audit]. Beth referred to scope for community working groups re projects included in PC application to Zero Carbon grant scheme.</p> <p><u>National campaigns</u> – Vicky suggested helping promote eg National Birdwatch Week. Clare to prepare a post using a local image, with help of her partner who works for RSPB.</p> <p><u>New ‘Wildlife’ Sub-Group</u> – with general agreement that SusCott should focus more on this area, and given the many different possible approaches, it was proposed a Sub-Group be formed to devise a strategy in the first instance. Peter agreed to consider leading the group. Our constitution requires that a trustee is represented on any sub-group.</p>	CA Ref to CW for appro PP
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>6.1 <u>Extinction Rebellion</u> – Jane referred to a piece by XR in the last newsletter; would our aims be seen as overlapping and should we be liaising with them more closely? Several members had reservations about closer links. Beth said several XR members have put their names forward for the Community Flood Action Group.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Cycle Hoops</u> – there are separate initiatives to install cycle hoops i/ by the PC, with money from Active Travel Fund, at the butchers and the Pound: ii/ by RedRow, as part of their planning obligations, various locations, some thought to be badly judged; the PC is negotiating for fewer hoops with surplus funding going eg towards community bus. Minutes of the relevant PC Planning Meeting will be published online. We can access these and make representations to the PC – Jo Brooks or Beth [responsible for Highways liaison]. Beth thought individual submissions likely to be more effective than group. Justin will send a comment in personal capacity and others encouraged to as well.</p>	JHis, ALL
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>No date set.</p>	