

Sustainable Cottenham

Notes from the Management Committee Meeting
held at 19.30 on 8th November 2021
at 11 Margett Street



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

1	<p>Minutes of last meeting, 26 Jan 2021 Agreed as correct. Re 3.1 Communications, the committee recorded thanks to Clare Adamson for her good work on FB postings raising SusCott's impact.</p>	
2	<p>Financial Report A financial statement of income and expenditure, 1 Jan 2020 to date, was noted. Current balance was £8906. Chris reported two grants received for Cottenham Connected, the first to purchase furniture and the second, awarded in March '21, for additional furniture and for running costs of the Socials. Peter queried the Village Hall hire costs. Chris agreed the hourage could be reduced when new bookings are made in the new year. While successful in raising project grants, SusCott has no regular source of revenue, or unrestricted funding, as needed for routine costs such as insurance. Important that we monitor the level of unrestricted funds [currently £678] and find a way to top up at some point.</p>	
3	<p>Appointment of Trustee Vicky Lacey had accepted the invitation of the trustees to join as a new trustee. <u>The committee confirmed her appointment as a trustee.</u> Vicky will provide details so that Chris can register her appointment with the Charity Commission online. The new appointment will be reported to members at the AGM.</p>	VL, CW
4	<p>Progress Updates</p> <p>4.1 <u>Cottenham Connected</u> [Chris]: Lorraine Clarke is now leading the sessions with Andrea Cowley in support. Currently 20-30 attendees, numbers slightly down, and no young people. Justin and Peter helping. Eventually it was hoped the project would become independent, eg as CIC, as it was aside from SusCott's main focus. But SusCott must continue to monitor finances as long as it holds grant funds. Intergenerational conversation on sustainability topics was suggested as a way whereby the Socials could support SusCott's aims.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Eco Eats</u> [Jane]: VegFest had worked well. The scope of the event only possible thanks to core partnerships with allotment trustees, WI and Community Allotment. Now planning for activities next year centred on a revised programme drawn up with Cambridge Sustainable Food and culminating at FEF in June. A new Zero Carbon Communities grant to CSF has been confirmed to enable them to work with EE to deliver this programme in Cottenham. Vicky suggested an event re use of post-Halloween pumpkin waste. Someone locally collects pumpkins for sheep fodder – note for FB calendar to give out details next year.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Nature Recovery</u> [Peter]: wildflower patch planted on the Green, info sign to be added. Fen Reeves wood - working party set up. WARG field mowing regime modified to encourage wildflowers eg bee orchids. John Loveluck [also a Parish Councillor] leading on practical actions. Queries raised re new housing developments – part management of Les King Wood by developer? Community orchard [in Red Row's planning agreement] – how does RR plan to implement this? Strong view that involvement of community should come first ie before any trees selected or planted. SusCott should interact with consultation meetings between developers, Parish Council and District Councillors. Ask John Loveluck to pursue with immediate ref to ensuring a genuine locally grounded approach to developing the orchard. Note Oakington has community orchard.</p>	Justin?
		Justin to speak to JL

4.4	<p><u>Plastic Free Cottenham</u> [Jane]: group had met twice, in Feb & June. Discussions with Co-op have led on to planning for a Mass Unwrap event coordinated with Plastic Free Longstanton & Northstowe and Sustainable Willingham, taking place at three Co-ops – provisionally next spring. Beth, Vicky and Sandra are MU organising team.</p> <p>Summer litter pick – the FB post on litter sorting and brand audit made an impact highlighting issues of packaging and plastics in the environment.</p> <p>Our first Business Champion award, to Fen End Farm, was confirmed by SAS in August. Vicky said to encourage other businesses the application procedure needs to be more accessible and easier eg a form on the website. Jane to check out SAS’s online info which has been updated.</p>	BF, VL, SC JHe
5	<p>Fen Edge Festival</p> <p>FEF committee meeting on 25 Nov to regroup after resignation of chair Lucy Dumbrell. SusCott rep to attend – Catherine or Jane volunteered [<i>update Catherine & Samantha Upham attended</i>]</p> <p>Agreed that SusCott continue its role as lead on provision of reusable cups as well as operational help with cups at the event. Need to review figures from last time; and many issues to consider eg buy or hire? New design? Wine glasses for PTCA party? Retention of cups – accept or discourage?</p> <p>Shared Waste Service has new Event Guide, including case study of SusCott reusable cups – Vicky to send link.</p> <p>Eco Eats partnership with CSF includes provision of consultancy advice to FEF re sustainability protocols for food stalls and traders – CSF’s Gemma Birley can attend committee when suitable. Agreed that we prepare a list of bullet points for FEF outlining the potential scope for an event-wide sustainability strategy.</p> <p>Chris said SusCott could apply to be one of FEF’s ‘approved charities’ which receive a share of profits [as SusCott did last time]. Chris to investigate.</p>	CB VL JHe CW
6	<p>Litter Pick, 13 Nov</p> <p>Peter confirmed he would help. Apologies from those not able to – Justin, Catherine, Jane [& Adam]. Village Hall hired for teas/cakes. Use teas etc and hand gel left over from VegFest. Chris reported litter picking equipment can now be stored at Village Hall.</p> <p>Vicky to investigate availability of the Council’s machine to sweep cycle path and verges.</p>	VL
7	<p>Repair Café, 20 Nov</p> <p>There will be 9 repairers, socially distanced. Electrical repairs are fully booked. Everyone booked in individual slots which is a painstaking process.</p> <p>Justin and Peter agreed to help looking after repairers [10.00 – 2.00].</p> <p>Vicky said the Shared Waste Service has a mobile recycling bank for small electricals, which she may be able to bring.</p>	JHi, PP VL
8	<p>Articles for Newsletter and Fen Edge News</p> <p>Jane asked for volunteers to take over organising SusCott contributions to the local newsletters, also proposing we start a calendar to plan articles through the year. Vicky agreed to step in. Jane suggested ‘greener gardening’ for the Jan/Feb CNL, prompted by the RHS’s new sustainability strategy; she will put Vicky in touch with Sarah Dumont [member & Gardening Club secretary]; also with John Loveluck re items from the Nature Recovery group.</p>	VL, JHe
9	<p>Future Activities</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on potential new SusCott initiatives, especially making greener choices easier, or more readily available in the village – eg a pool car/zip car; access to grocery/household refills. Vicky recommended an online carbon footprint tracker Giki Zero; a community group can be set up to work with this tool. https://giki.earth/</p> <p>Peter suggested a further Yard Sale; but is this function now fulfilled by local Freebies group?</p> <p>Agreed to hold a separate, ‘brainstorming’ meeting, planning future strategy combined with drinks and socialising. Venue – at Catherine’s. [<i>Date now confirmed as <u>Thurs 13 Jan, 7.30.</u></i>]</p>	VL

10	Any Other Business Rotary Club Cambridge South: Peter advised that the Rotary Club can provide grants; he will ask Mike Smith about criteria and how to apply. New member: Samantha Upham, works in sustainable packaging, interested in joining FEF committee. Next meeting – no date set.	pp
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JHeath/01/12/21