



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Sustainable Cottenham

Held at 11 Margett Street on 22 March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Justin Hiscock, Timur Jack-Kadioglu, Catherine Burch, Jane Heath, Janey Lynas, Amy Duthie, Alison Gascoigne, Robert Moorcroft, Vicky Lacey, Peter Pilbeam, Chris Ward, Adam Mills

Apologies: Clare Adamson, Sandra Cross, Heather Scicluna, Glynis Pilbeam

1. The minutes of the previous AGM (16 March 2022) were approved.
2. Trustees' Report: The Chair, Chris Ward, delivered the Report, covering the activities of the various groups. She emphasised that we try not to 'preach to the converted', and that we need to expand our reach over social media such as Facebook and Instagram.

EcoEats: This is mostly in partnership with Cambridge Sustainable Food. Disco Soup was a success at Cottenham Primary School, but poor enthusiasm for family cookery classes has been disappointing. The stand and the demonstrations at the Fen Edge Festival were good, but did not attract enough families. The Community Meal was set up for the Primary School PTCA, but could not be held and we hope it can be rearranged. About half the recipe books have been sold.

Nature Recovery Group: In conjunction with New Life on the Old West and their Project Manager Howard Jones, the management of the WARG Field on Histon Road has been improved, with a pond and fruit trees added. New ponds have been made on the Old Recreation Ground by the Lode on Broad Lane, with the addition of new hedging and wildflower planting. Fen Reeves Wood has had the paths widened and trees coppiced with a lot of overgrowth cut away and moved to the edges for wildlife habitat. The newts at Tenison Manor are under surveillance. The Group continues strongly despite the sad death of John Loveluck.

Repair Café: Another event at the Community Centre on 11 March was successful and popular under the management of Vicky Lacey. She has plans for more, perhaps in June and October.

Other Activities: The Plastic Free Initiative has been inactive since Covid. Litter Picks and Cycle Path Clearances have continued and been well supported, sometimes Scouts and Guides have assisted. In November 2022 we supported Cottenham Community Centre in a Home Energy Drop In Event aimed at improving awareness of the importance of thermal efficiency in village homes. Robert Moorcroft has been trained in the use of Thermal Imaging Cameras.

The Trustees' report was approved by the members present.

3. Treasurer's Report: The accounts were distributed before the meeting. Catherine Burch, Treasurer reported on account activities. The grant for Cottenham Connected was returned to Cambridge Communities Foundation as key people could not continue the project. Our running costs stand at about £400 per annum (insurance, website hosting etc). This has been previously managed with grants from Fen Edge Community Association (FEFF work) and Cottenham Parish Council. These are variable and not guaranteed, so further sources must be found. Current unallocated funds stand at £666.96. Adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Jane Heath and seconded by Peter Pilbeam, and approved unanimously.

3. Appointment of Trustees: As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation it is a requirement that Trustees should be rotated on a 3 year cycle. This year Justin Hiscock and Catherine Burch both stood down, and were re-elected.

Members were encouraged to consider whether they would like to become trustees.

4. Appointment of Officers: Chris Ward was re-elected as Chair, Catherine Burch as Treasurer and Jane Heath and Justin Hiscock as co-Secretaries. Amy Duthie, Alison Gascoigne and Timur Jack-Kadioglu joined the management committee.

Future Activities

5. EcoEats: Jane Heath outlined activities still to be delivered under the EcoEats grant funded programme, including the Community Meal/Quiz and cookery workshops with Adult Learning at the Village College. It was decided to make a package that could be offered to youth groups as an activity to encourage wider participation in the project.

6. Nature Recovery: To build on current success and improve it Janey Lynas, Alison Gascoigne and Amy Duthie are keen to join the Nature Recovery Group and help establish a nature audit. This will be a long term project, and could make use of 'trail cameras' as well as observation.
7. Thermal Imaging Camera: These are now held by Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Rob Moorcroft has recently trained to use them. He will provide additional publicity for Cottenham Newsletter so that Thermal Imaging Surveys can be offered to residents next winter. The nearest camera currently is at Histon, Rob will see if another is available to be based in Cottenham.
8. Climate Emergency: We will affiliate to the Climate Emergency Group of Cottenham Parish Council, and contribute to their discussions. Peter Pilbeam and Rob Moorcroft will join the group.
9. Swish: Swish is a way of swapping and recycling previously used clothing. Catherine Burch, Vicky Lacey, Timur Jack-Kadioglu and Amy Duthie will research this.
10. Repair Café: Vicky Lacey hopes to build on the success of the last repair Café with a further event in October, and then regularly.
11. Future Funding: Alison Gascoigne offered to take on pursuit of funds from Tesco and Coop charity allocations. Peter Pilbeam observed that Cambridge Rotary South will offer grants to community organisations for a specific stated purpose.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Justin Hiscock

Joint Secretary