

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Sustainable Cottenham

Held at 7.30pm on 15 May 2024

At 11 Margett Street, Cottenham



Present: Heather Scicluna, Alison Gascoigne, John Scott, Peter Pilbeam, Catherine Burch, Justin Hiscock, Chris Ward, Simon Ward, Catherine Burch, Vicki Harley, Vicky Lacey, Vanessa Ramos, Beth Fleetwood

Chris Ward opened the meeting by thanking members for their attendance and their efforts through the last year.

1. Apologies for Absence: Jane Heath, Clare Adamson, Timur Jack-Kadioglu, Sarah Dumont, Glynis Pilbeam
2. Previous Minutes: Chris asked for approval of the Minutes of the AGM of 22 March 2023, which was granted unanimously.
3. Trustees' Report: In her Trustees' Report Chris described the structure of Sustainable Cottenham (SusCott). A central management committee oversees a number of sub-groups. SusCott has about 40 members and 640 followers on Facebook. Communication is by direct email and through Facebook. One objective for the next year must be to increase the number of active members.
 - a. The Nature Recovery Group continues to co-operate with New Life on the Old West to maintain and improve the Parish's natural habitats. They intend to audit the current situation regarding flora and fauna to understand the impact of Climate Change. In order to drive this forward a new NRG Chair is urgently needed. Alison Gascoigne said she would speak to Beth Ellis about possibly sharing the Chair role.
 - b. EcoEats continues to work to raise awareness of climate friendly diets and reducing food waste as well as encourage the growing of fresh fruit and vegetables.
 - c. Plastic Free will hold a mass unwrap event at the Coop in Cottenham on 8 June to highlight the quantity of plastic wrapping used in our shopping.
 - d. Home Energy Savings Events have been held at the Community Centre, but attendance has been poor. Thermal Imaging Cameras have been used to highlight poor insulation in village houses. The challenge for 2024 is to try to get the service used by households that really need it.
 - e. Litter Picks continue to be held in Spring and Autumn each year, with good support.
 - f. Repair Cafes continue to be supported and are successful.



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- g. SusCott takes a leading role in the Parish Councils 'Climate Emergency Awareness Working Group'.
4. Treasurer's Report: Catherine Burch reported that annual expenditure remains at about £400 annually, and there has been little new expenditure in the last year. A grant is expected from the Coop's charitable giving. A financial statement was provided with the Agenda.
 5. Approval of accounts for 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023. Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Peter Pilbeam and seconded by Vicky Lacey. It was approved unanimously.
 6. Retirement of Trustee: Chris Ward stood down as a Trustee after three years in position.
 7. Appointment of Trustees: She was asked to renew her position and was proposed as a Trustee by Peter Pilbeam, seconded by Heather Scicluna. Chris Ward was unanimously re-elected. John Scott expressed an interest in finding out more about becoming a Trustee.
 8. Appointment of Officers: Chris Ward stated her concern that the management group of SusCott has been the much the same for many years, leading to staleness. An important objective of the next year must be to refresh the membership and leadership of SusCott. Chris was keen to stand down as Chair in due course and Catherine Burch would like to stand down as Treasurer. Justin Hiscock has stood down as Co-Secretary and from active involvement. Beth Fleetwood volunteered to act as Co-Secretary. Justin volunteered to speak at the Parish Meeting about SusCott and ask for new members prepared to get involved.
 9. Other Business:
 - a. NRG. Simon Ward reported that NLOW had provided more mulch to protect the new hedge round the ponds at the Old Rec. The woods at Fen Reeves have been assessed to reduce the tree density and allow new plant growth. He also suggested for the Audit sampling certain species as well as assessing 'important' trees in the village.
 - b. FEFF. John Scott and Chris Ward will run the supply of reusable cups for the bars. The SusCott stall will be shared with NLOW on Saturday and Cambridge Carbon Footprint on Sunday. Hedgerow foraging was suggested as an additional feature.
 - c. Communications. A communication strategy should be established, possibly at a meeting focussing chiefly on setting the comms for a year.
 - d. Carbon Emissions. Beth Fleetwood reported that tables of emissions are available by parish and can be used for comparison.
 10. Review of policies:
 - a. The Data Protection and Equality Policies were reviewed and approved.
 - b. It was agreed to set aside the Child and Adult Protection Policies as they are no longer relevant.

Justin Hiscock

Co-Secretary (retired)