

Monmouthshire GreenWeb

Annual General Meeting at the Kings Head, Usk, 6th December 2005

Present

Dick Cole, Abergavenny Cycle Group
Tudor Morgan, Wentwood Timber Centre
Henrietta Bramley, Abergavenny & Crickhowell Friends of the Earth
Sue Parkinson, GreenWeb Coordinator
Jon Prince, Gwent Wildlife Trust
Sara Vaisey, Gilwern Eagles Community Association
Mal Plumley, Gilwern Eagles Community Association
David Roman, Monmouthshire Community Recycling
Margaret Power, Gwent WI
Daphne Bendion, Gwent WI
Ann Morse, Usk Civic Society
Catrin Williams, Monmouthshire CC, Sustainable Development

Apologies

Catherine Fookes, Wye Valley AONB (Committee Member 2004/5)
Bill Howard Monmouthshire Meadows (Committee Member 2004/5)
Rod Walters, A&C Friends of the Earth (Committee Member 2004/5)
Biodiversity Partnership
Forest Schools
Gwent Beekeepers Association
Monmouth, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Trust
Monmouth Civic Society.
Monmouth Fairtrade Forum
Monmouth freecycle
Rural Community Action
South East Wales Energy Agency
Tools for Self Reliance
Usk Conservation & Environment Group

Welcome and Apologies

Dick welcomed the group and accepted the apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of the AGM 5th December 2004

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as accurate

Agenda Item 3 – Matters Arising from AGM minutes 2004

Simon James subsequently decided not to sit on the GW committee

Agenda Item 4 – Chair's Report

Dick referred to the Annual Report circulated before the meeting, emphasising the challenges to be faced to sustain GreenWeb after the CEDS grant and thanking MCC for their financial assistance to date, Sue for her work as Coordinator, Simon James for the use of the GAVO office, and the Committee for their time and commitment.

Dick raised the issue funding in 2006 with Sue working 1 day a week. This would cost between £3,00 and £5,000 and the membership would need to be more self-sufficient updating their own sites etc. To help raise funds we could introduce subscriptions or develop a green business directory, both options will be explored under the Discussion Item. Dick suggested that the potential of the web site had not yet been fully realised and that there was scope to develop the bulletin board etc further.

Agenda Item 5 – Treasurers Report

Jon circulated the final audited accounts (attached). Figures for the year to April 2005 are above the line, those below are for interest and related to the year 2005/06. The accounts are good with all the money spent in-line with MCC expectations. Most of the expenditure goes on Sue's wages, newsletter and events. There was a one off expenditure on publicity items for displays etc.

The accounts for this year (2005/06) are healthy with enough funds to see us through to April 2006. There will be some spend before April on improvements to the website / related materials. If people would like more detailed accounts please contact Jon.

Agenda Item 6 – Election of Chair and Treasurer

No nominations had been received by post or e-mail. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Dick Cole remain as Chair and that Jon Prince remain as Treasurer.

Agenda Item 7 – Election of Executive Committee

In the absence of any written nominations, nominations were taken from those present. Nominations were:

Henrietta Bramley
Catherine Fookes

Rod Walters
Tudor Morgan

Maggie Biss

Bill Howard was standing down but would be replaced by Maggie Biss also from Mons Meadows. All nominations were approved

If anyone wants to join the committee at a later date they are more than welcome and invited to get in touch with Catrin

Agenda Item 8 – Appointment of Auditor and Banker

HSBC are the current bankers of GreenWeb, there seemed no reason to change this. Mr Keith Lewis has done an audit on the accounts for a small sum. Both were reappointed.

Agenda Item 9 – Consideration of changes to the constitution

(a) to substitute the word 'Association' for the word 'Charity' throughout, and to make such other amendments as are necessary as a consequence of our non-charity status but without departing from the object of the association and responsibilities of committee members to administer the association with care,

(b) to add a vice chairman and secretary to the elected honorary officers in clause F

These were both accepted by the meeting. Catrin was appointed as secretary with Rod Walters nominated for the position of Vice Chair. Dick to approach Rod to see if he is willing to take this post (*subsequently confirmed*).

Dick and Catrin to make relevant changes to the constitution.

Date of the Next Committee Meeting – Catrin to contact committee to arrange date in January.

Discussion

Following the formal business of the AGM a discussion was held on ways of sustaining the association. The following were generally agreed:

- That a modest membership fee should be introduced to raise some revenue and generate commitment, possibly with two rates according to ability to pay;
- Members, when asked for a fee, should receive a prospectus outlining the benefits of membership, illustrated by data on visits to their web pages, etc;
- That further funding will still be required to help run the site.
- The project for a green consumer guide was favourably received, but that some market research is needed to substantiate demand, to back up funding bids;
- Some member organisations might pay GreenWeb to manage their own web sites.
That the AGM is held in May/ June next year as this will be closer to our year end (April)