

Monmouthshire GreenWeb

Annual General Meeting, Newport Wetland Centre **28th September 2008**

Present:

Dick Cole	Abergavenny Cycle Group
Jon Prince	Gwent Wildlife Trust
Rod Walters	Abergavenny and Crickhowell Friends of the Earth
Maggie Biss	Monmouthshire Meadows Group and Lower Wye Valley Soc
Glenda Genner	GAVO
Colin Genner	Guest
Annette Baker	Monmouth & District Friends of the Earth
Kath Collis	Usk Civic Society
Janice Cook	Usk Civic Society
Derek Jones	Monmouth Civic Society
Miriam Jones	Monmouth Civic Society
Erica Davis	Transition Chepstow
Henrietta Lucas-Bramley	Forgotten Landscapes Partnership
Colette Mooney	Monmouthshire County Council
Sue Parkinson	GreenWeb Coordinator

Apologies:

Katrina Gass Abergavenny Fairtrade, Lorraine de Souza Environment Agency Wales and Tony Care Tools for Self Reliance Cymru.

Agenda item 1 – Welcome and apologies

Dick Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted the apologies.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the AGM of 5th June 2007

These were accepted as accurate, proposed by Jon Prince, seconded by Rod Walters.

Agenda item 3 – Matters Arising from previous AGM

- The Committee have not met frequently over the last year because of uncertainties about the future of the web sites (see below), and have not yet had the opportunity to consider charging for Green Directory entries. **(Action Committee)**
- A link from GreenWeb to one or more of the daily environmental news bulletins has not been achieved yet, but will be done shortly **(Action Sue Parkinson)**

Agenda item 4 – Chairman's Report

Dick Cole referred to the Annual report for 2007/8 circulated prior to the meeting. Some effort over the last 12 months has gone into refreshing the look of the GreenWeb site, although this has yet to come fully to fruition. For the time being it has been put on hold as we have the opportunity to take part of the new Monmouthshire County Council web site. The advantages are that we will be able to keep our domain name and our independent look, while having a free presence on the County Council's web site, and have the use of a content management system which will enable easier updating for

member groups without the use of separate web-editing software. It is anticipated that the GreenWeb site will migrate to the County Council's site later this year, although a date has yet to be arranged, and this will be the right time to implement the changes that we have planned to the design and structure of the GreenWeb site.

The network has continued to grow, with 54 member groups. Visitor numbers to the site have also continued to grow steadily.

Our sister Green Directory web site, which contains details of local green businesses and tips on greener lifestyles has also grown since its launch to now include 128 free business entries.

Monmouthshire GreenWeb's financial situation has improved due to its contract to provide a Coordinating service to the Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board. While GreenWeb is not able to develop further without external funding or volunteering, the combination of member subscriptions and payment from the Environment Partnership Board has enabled the GreenWeb network to continue to provide a service to its member groups and the wider public.

Thanks were offered to Gwent Committee for the Environment for its donation of remaining funds following its closure as a group; to volunteers Leigh Danziger who provided valuable assistance with the Green Directory and to Lesley Strawson who updates the GreenWeb diary every month; to Jon Prince for his assistance as Treasurer and IT expert; to the executive committee for its support and assistance; to GAVO for hosting meetings; and most importantly to its member groups for 'keeping faith' with GreenWeb, and without whom the network would not exist.

Agenda item 5 – Treasurer's Report

Jon Prince reported that, with careful management, a good response to subscriptions, and the coordinating contract with Monmouthshire Environment Partnership Board ended the last financial year with a balance of £2581.27. It was noted that the balance includes £2100 from the EPB to cover unworked hours by the coordinator.

The accounts for 2007-8 were accepted.

Agenda item 6 – Election of Chair and Treasurer

Maggie Biss, seconded by Henrietta Lucas-Bramley, proposed the re-election of the current officers. There were no other nominations either received prior to the meeting, or put forward during the AGM, and Dick Cole and Jon Prince were elected.

Agenda Item 7 – Election of Committee and Secretary

Kath Collis, seconded by Annette Baker, proposed the re-election of the committee if they are prepared to continue; Maggie Biss, Henrietta Lucas-Bramley, Colette Mooney and Rod Walters were re-elected. Glenda Genner expressed an interest in joining the Executive Committee, and this offer was accepted.

The County Council's Sustainable Communities Officer Colette Mooney will not be continuing as secretary to the Executive Committee due to pressures of her other work, but will continue to attend Committee meetings. Sue Parkinson will take on this role for the time being, until a volunteer can be found from within the network. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Colette for all her work and support for GreenWeb.

Agenda Item 8 – Appointment of Auditor and Banker

It was agreed to reaffirm HSBC as bankers, proposed by Colette Mooney and seconded by Rod Walters. The need for auditing of accounts was discussed, as the cost is relatively high, and the turnover of GreenWeb relatively low. It was agreed that formal auditing of the association's accounts was unnecessary, but that the Chairman should confirm his agreement of them. **(Action Jon Prince and Dick Cole)**

Agenda Item 9 – Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions currently stand at £25.00, with the first year free for so that groups can assess the benefits of being part of the network. So far this year 50% of the members have paid, and two have indicated that they will not be continuing as members. It was agreed to keep the subscription at £25.00 for next year, although it was suggested that subscriptions should be requested before the end of the financial year as many groups have less committee meetings during the summer. It was also suggested that groups with their own web site have a lower subscription rate, and the executive committee will consider this. **(Action Committee)**

Agenda item 10 – Discussion re future development of GreenWeb

- It was suggested that GreenWeb get involved with Volunteer Week in June next year, perhaps in partnership with GAVO. As many of our member groups are powered by volunteers, it would be good to recognise this. **(Agreed - Committee to discuss further)**
- It was suggested that campaigns are not well catered for on GreenWeb, and can get lost. It was suggested that a separate heading be added to the bulletin board specifically for campaigns, and linked to members pages where sample letters and other campaign materials could be downloaded. **(Committee to consider, but members reminded that campaign news can be submitted for the Bulletin Board)**
- Colette expressed thanks from Monmouthshire County Council for GreenWeb, which helps to raise the profile of voluntary environmental activities in the County.