

Monmouthshire GreenWeb

Annual General Meeting, Wentwood Timber Centre **29th September 2006**

Present:

Dick Cole	Abergavenny Cycle Group
Tudor Morgan	Wentwood Timber Centre
Catrin Williams	Monmouthshire CC Sustainable Development Team
Jon Prince	Gwent Wildlife Trust
Rod Walters	Abergavenny and Crickhowell Friends of the Earth
Kay Flatten	Chepstow Friends of the Earth
Sonia Beeston-Leaper	Chepstow Friends of the Earth
Bryce / Bruce Davis	Chepstow Friends of the Earth
Sue Parkinson	GreenWeb Coordinator

Apologies:

Henrietta Bramley, Abergavenny and Crickhowell FoE (Committee Member 2006)
Maggie Biss, Monmouthshire Meadows (Committee Member 2006)

CCW	Monmouthshire Community Recycling
CPRW	Monmouthshire Meadows
Energy Advice Agency	Monmouth Civic Society
Gilwern Eagles	Tools for Self Reliance
Monmouth Civic Society	Usk Civic Society
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal	Usk Conservation and Environment Group
MCC/ Biodiversity Partnership / Access Forum	Well Spring Fellowship??

Agenda item 1 – Welcome and apologies

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

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the AGM on the 6th December 2005

These were accepted as accurate.

Agenda item 3 – Matters Arising from previous AGM

- Rod Walters had accepted the role of Vice Chair.
- A flat membership fee of £25 had been introduced.
- Market research had not been necessary to gain funding for the 'green' directory.
- The aim of holding the AGM closer to the year end had not been fully realised (although is earlier this year than last). We will aim for closer to April next year.

Agenda item 4 – Chairman's Report

Dick referred to the Annual report for 2005/06 circulated prior to the meeting (attached).

GreenWeb had 45 members last year and this increased to 50 this year, even with the introduction of subscriptions. The number and diversity of members makes the site an interesting and informative visit.

The loss of some statistics for much of 2006, for technical reasons beyond our control, meant that it is difficult to establish whether the site has as many 'hits' as it did last year (average 3,500 / month). However as the number of hits for September was 3, 017 there does not seem to be cause to concern.

It may be that in 2007/08 GreenWeb feels the pinch as funding remains unconfirmed. There may be some (£1,000 / £2,000) income from the Environment Partnership in addition to subscription fees.

In April GreenWeb hosted a joint event with the Environment Partnership Board. This worked very well with a number of member groups attending the event and having the opportunity to feed their views into the Community Strategy. Hopefully, some of the actions identified at the event will come to fruition.

Work towards the Green Guide is progressing well thanks to £3,500 funding from Rural Community Action and CEDS. This money will allow GreenWeb to develop an on-line directory of local environmentally friendly services along with top tips on how to live a sustainable lifestyle. Sue will do most of the work (on a separate contract), along with a volunteer based at the GAVO Offices in Usk. We hope to have the directory on-line by March 2006. Anyone who wants to contribute to developing this should contact Dick.

Dick thanked Sue for all her hard work and dedication, MCC and RCA for the funding and GAVO for the use of their offices. Dick also gave thanks to the Committee, in particular Jon for his hard work and expert knowledge and to Catrin who is now leaving Monmouthshire. Catrin was presented with a framed photograph of the Sugar Loaf so that she can long for Monmouthshire and the mountains while down in the New Forest. Catrin thanked GreenWeb and said that it had been a pleasure working with the Committee and member groups and that she will miss Monmouthshire and the organisations and people within it.

Agenda item 5 – Treasurer's Report

The report was as expected with the bulk of money being spent on the Coordinator's salary, newsletters, expenses and events. There was some discussion about whether it would be possible to reduce the Employer Liability costs by switching to the NFU, and a suggestion that GAVO should offer insurance that covered all member organisations.

GreenWeb started the financial year (April 2005) with an income of £10,500 of which £9,587 had been spent. This enabled a small amount to be carried over into 2006/07.

Income in 2006/07

- £800 subscriptions
- £900 LA21 grant for newsletter
- £200 reimbursement from the Inland Revenue
- £2,306 carried over from previous years
- £3,500 grants for the business directory

Agenda item 6 – Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer

Dick Cole was nominated and seconded as Chair, with Jon Prince also nominated and seconded to stay on as Treasurer. Rod Walters resigned his post of Vice Chair, and the need for this post will be

reviewed at a later date. There were no other nominations either received prior to the meeting, or put forward during the AGM.

Agenda Item 7 – Election of Committee and Secretary

The remaining committee were re-elected:

Rod Walters	Maggie Biss
Henrietta Bramley	Tudor Morgan

There were no other nominations either received prior to the meeting, or put forward during the AGM. Should anyone wish to join the committee, please contact Dick.

The post of secretary has historically been held by the Sustainable Communities Officer. Catrin confirmed that this would continue to be the case and that Colette Mooney would be attending meetings from now onwards.

Agenda Item 8 – Appointment of Auditor and Banker

HSBC are the current bankers and there seems no reason to change this. Mr. Keith Lewis had done an audit on the accounts for a small sum. Both were reappointed.

Agenda Item 9 – Subscriptions

There was agreement that subscriptions should remain as £25 for 2006/07

Agenda item 10 – Discussion re future development of GreenWeb

- Agreement was reached that the directory would be free for the first year with a subscription being introduced after this (as with GreenWeb). Tudor commented that Wentwood got business through GreenWeb which augers well for the future of the site.
- It was suggested that information on the Severn Bore should be included on the site to attract more people.
- Also suggested was a Green Auction (perhaps similar to Freecycle – who are members) on the bulletin board. This would make the site more dynamic but may require different software. Committee to consider this recommendation after completing the business directory.
- It was suggested that the business directory could include licensed operators in waste management (to reduce fly tipping etc) and that the newsletter could include more information about the directory's contents and what people should be doing to live a more sustainable lifestyle.
- Raised again was the idea of having a daily news bulletin of environmental news relevant to member organisations. This has had to be rejected in the past due to time constraints and priorities of the Coordinator. However a more workable suggestion was that GreenWeb has a link to one of the many sites that already offer this kind of service.
- If any one has any other suggestions then please contact Dick Cole.

Agenda Item 11 – Date of the next Committee meeting

7:30pm 25th October at the new GAVO Offices.

