

Minutes A G M at St Francis Church

Present: Mike Lennard, Marlene Corby, Jane Wainwright, Alan Shipgood, Peter Parkman, Cheryl Beeney

Apologies

Mike Lennard, our chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, speaking about the social side of Lets including the Christmas meal at the Avon Brewery. He also mentioned his own difficulties with health problems over the last year which have now been solved.

Marlene gave out the news that sadly Cheryl is leaving, not only the committee but will be moving away from Salisbury to 'somewhere in Essex' to be near her daughters. Marlene talked about her first meeting with Cheryl and how she had first joined Lets. She spoke about how willing and able Cheryl had always been. Cheryl was presented with a cake and an engraved, Dartington crystal glass with a bottle of wine to 'christen it with in recognition of her services.

Marlene gave a report on our finances stating that we this year we had more coming in than going out.

She also reported on membership. We have 50 members, 5 new people joined in 2014 and 1 member left – Linda Tolley, when she moved to Sheffield

Events Mike talked about the Saturday drop in at the Cosy club and the Annual dinner at the Avon Brewery. He asked for ideas for future events which would hopefully draw more people. There was a general feeling that we needed to find ways to socialise and connect with other members of the Salisbury LETS but that it seemed difficult to do.

Election

There was 1 formal nomination – Alan, otherwise we would be continuing with the same committee members.

Speaker – Cheryl Hill

Subject – Plans for Salisbury as a Transition Town

Transition is a global movement that originated in Totnes to address the effects of the unsustainable use of fossil fuels and the effects on our society and its culture.

Cheryl gave an inspirational and fascinating talk on how the initiative towards including Salisbury in this movement came about and the progress so far. She explained that the initiative was to encourage less dependency on oil but has a much wider focus. It is non political, non denominational with a drive towards such ideas as more self sufficiency, encouraging a stronger focus on local produce, strengthening community to become more inclusive, resilient and supportive, the planting of more trees and the use of less plastics.

For anyone who would like to know more or would like to become involved they can visit the web site www.salisburytransitioncity.org. There will also be a public meeting on 29th April at the Avon Brewery pub, 7 for 7.30 pm.

Appreciation was extended to Pat Banks for her work on the decoration of the invitations

Feedback

In order to arouse more interest in socialising ideas were suggested such as:

People demonstrating what they offered on LETS at the trading event

Meeting in the evening as an alternative

Having a B B Q

Visiting another LETS group

Trading in the library

Refreshments offered at the trading events

Sunday morning car boot sale

It was also pointed out that any negative feedback could be reported back to the committee.

TALK TO LETS

by

Cheryl Hill

Chairman of

Salisbury Transition City

Good afternoon, and thank you for inviting me to talk to you about Salisbury Transition City.

We started in June last year when Councillor Michael Pope invited Rob Hopkins, the founder of Transition Town Totnes and the Transition movement to come to speak about Transition in the Salisbury Guildhall. There are now thousands of Transition Towns all over the World. This was publicised and quite a lot of people turned up to hear him speak. Following this meeting Michael had collected names and email addresses of those people who were interested and then called a meeting in St Thomas House. At that meeting I was elected Chairman and volunteers were called for, for the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Subsequently the Secretary stood down due to her other commitments, so I have been doing both roles as we have not had anybody else volunteer. Initially we had 76 members, although a few of those were just people who wandered in off the street at the initial meeting and had no further interest, as well as a few who just wished to keep a watching brief. So, approximately 8 of those were taken off the data base and we have had a similar number join, mostly just because I have talked to them and the membership now stands at 70. There are many people who are interested – we just have to let them know we are here. We have several members who are also members of LETS and I believe the two organisations are complimentary and should work alongside each other and members should be members of both.

What is Transition – We are a non-political and non-sectarian organisation and basically we want to make Salisbury a sustainable community, more self-sufficient and less dependent on oil, so that when it becomes too expensive to get out of the ground, or global warming and the atmosphere is so bad due to the pollutants released by burning oil, the people of Salisbury are not hit so hard. To this end, we would like to see locally grown food for local people, use local shops instead of the big chains. Additionally, improved public transport so that people automatically choose not to have a car because it is easy to get around, and improved and safe cycle routes around the City. And then all the usual things, use less plastics, persuade shops not to give away plastic bags, plant more trees, more green energy

such as solar panels and hydro power. The aim of Salisbury Transition City is to strengthen the community in Salisbury - that is people helping each other, knowing their neighbours. Our vision of Salisbury Transition City is that it will be a community that is inclusive, resilient, creative and supportive of one another.

We have several sub groups, Marketing, Energy, Economy, Food & Water, Environment, and Hearts & Minds (which is education) and the Core Group.

The Core Group which comprises the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer, and the Marketing Sub Group, is at present overseeing the setting up of the organisation of Salisbury Transition City.

Marketing sub group – the “marketing” of Salisbury Transition City, such as choosing a logo, strap line etc., that can be used on everything from a banner, to our website, to letter heads, and working on our website and helping other sub groups to “market” their projects.

Energy sub group – they are looking at green ways of making energy, together with the things that the home owner can do such as solar panels, insulation, etc., and transport.

The Economy sub group is there to look at ways in which we can help our local economy and small businesses.

Food & Water sub group– they are looking at the problems caused by global warming such as flooding, and food production, and other ways of producing food such as permaculture, planting fruit and nut trees in our parks.

The Environment sub group– are looking at improving our environment, flooding, etc. Tool repair workshops. Planting trees, replacing flower beds with herbs etc.

Hearts & Minds – their remit is education. i.e. Educating the public on all of these issues and changing their mind, set as well as that of the members of STC. They will help the other sub groups get their message across to the public in the most effective way.

As you will see each of these sub groups actually are inter-dependent. Hearts & Minds can help Energy in promoting their message as well all of the other sub groups. Marketing sub group can also help say, the Economy sub group when they are talking to small businesses or putting our message before the public.

The sub groups will work on projects, whether they be persuading the council to plant more public orchards in our parks, or looking for ways of producing energy in a green way.

In contrast to some Transition Towns, the majority of our members are retired professional people – i.e. pensioners. If you look at other Transition Towns they have a much younger membership and we need to attract more young people as members. After all it is for their future and that of their children that we are doing this. Consequently, the setting up of STC is being done in a very professional way rather than growing organically. We have a strong

constitution, and a website, which is a work in progress. We have written to all the schools with 6th forms and set a competition for students to design a logo for us which reflects the ethos of Salisbury Transition City and the City. If you know of anybody in the age group 16 to 18 who has not heard of this and would be interested in entering, please ask them to contact Mike Lennard for the rules and specification. The prize is £50. Our launch date is 27th June and we have booked the Banqueting Suite in the Guildhall. Shortly after the Launch we will have proper elections for the new Steering Group which will take the place of the Sub Group. Now that members know each other the posts of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, will be elected and each sub group will elect their own representative to go onto the Steering Group. The Core Group are at present looking at Job Descriptions for the members of the Steering Group. We are also now just beginning to plan our launch.

Please look at our website: www.salisburytransitioncity.org and the Transition Network site at <https://www.transitionnetwork.org/>

And if you would like to come to our next meeting this is on : 29th April

at 7.00 for 7.30pm and it is The Avon Brewery, Castle Street, Salisbury. If you would like to join, this can be done through our website.