

Minutes of the Transition Town Llandeilo AGM on 11/02/2014 at the Shire Hall, Llandeilo at 7.30 pm

Present: Steve Brown, Gerry Gold, Patricia Dodd Racher, Anson Allen, Annie Davis Allen, Veronica Russell, Phil Russell, Joan Clarke, Larry Williams, June Williams, Katka Dvorakova, Colin Foster, Tony Graf, Madeleine Graf, David Thorpe, Lynne Ball, Steve Ball, Ben McAllister, Jen McAllister, John Gaffney, Kathleen Raymond-Barker, Neil Lewis, Trevor Jones, Paul Thomas, Candace Brown, Sandra Ozolins, Simon Good, Emma Clinker, David Darrell
Apologies: Lewys Jones, Sue Wakefield

Secretary's Report:

The main events organised by the group since the AGM on 12th February 2013 have been:

March. Film - The World According to Monsanto. Llandybie.

May. Living In The Future, film, and Q&A session with Paul Wimbush at Lammas. Llandybie.

June. Stall at Party In The Park, Penlan Park.
Film - The World According to Monsanto, Cottage Inn.

September. Film – Even The Rain. Llandybie
Stall at Llandovery Sheep Festival.

November. Public Meeting with Jane Davidson, about Environment Bill. Cawdor Chapel.

December. Midwinter Tea in collaboration with Cymdeithas y Dalar and Dinefwr Green Group. Civic Hall.

Other activities and groups:

Anson Allen reported on the Amman-Towy Community Growers who will be starting vegetable production in Derwydd shortly. Their public survey attracted 360 responses showing considerable support for the project.

Gerry Gold reported on the People's Assembly which held a 'Feast of Fools' on April 1st at the Cwmdru Inn.

David Thorpe reported on the revived Energy group which held a public Energy Efficiency event at the Civic Hall in October. In the run up to that, a meeting with George Marshall examined how to run the group effectively, and a postcard was delivered to every household in Llandeilo. There are plans for a possible follow-up to October's event.

Ben McAllister reported on the newly formed Tywi Woodland Group. This came together following meetings in Trap initiated by Mike Grogan and involving Gareth Ellis of the Green Valleys project. Work has begun at Ben and Jen's woodland and another wood near Llandovery, and training sessions have taken place.

Katka Dvorakova reported on the Llandeilo Food Network. This group shares information regarding local food on its Facebook page. It has arranged foraging walks and created a Food Directory which is now available online. It arranged a Seed and Plant Swap at the Tywi Centre in April 2013 and is organising another at the same venue for March 30th 2014.

Annie Davis Allen reported on the Permaculture group. This continues to convene on the first Sunday of each month for a few hours' work on the land and a shared lunch.

Treasurer's Report

Transition Town Llandeilo - Income and Expenditure 2013-2014

| | | Bank | | Cash | | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Opening Balances: | | 1160.09 | | 46.46 | | 1206.55 |
| Date | Description | Expenditure | Income | Expenditure | Income | |
| 10/04/13 | Film - Monsanto (BACS) | | 36.55 | | | |
| 30/04/13 | Llandybie Memorial Hall | 200056 | 50.60 | | | |
| 01/05/13 | D Thorpe (webhosting) * | 200057 | 0.00 | | | |
| 30/05/13 | Lammas film donations | | | | 47.00 | |
| 16/06/13 | Monsanto film - Cottage Inn | | | | 52.92 | |
| 11/07/03 | Llandybie Hall - Lammas | 200058 | 37.60 | | | |
| 22/07/13 | WCVA | | 628.50 | | | |
| 01/08/13 | George Marshall | 200059 | 528.50 | | | |
| 01/08/13 | Cyberium | 200060 | 50.00 | | | |
| 11/09/13 | G Gold (Even the Rain) | 200061 | 52.40 | | | |
| 19/09/13 | Donations (Even the Rain) | | | | 18.00 | |
| 07/10/13 | Lewis printers (Oct 19th) | 200062 | 105.00 | | | |
| 08/10/13 | Donation (Pat D-R) | | 20.00 | | 20.00 | |
| 08/10/13 | Llandybie Hall - even the rain | 200063 | 36.60 | | | |
| 08/10/13 | Renew Wales (Oct 19) | | 500.00 | | | |
| 09/10/13 | Postage stamps | | | 6.00 | | |
| 11/10/13 | transfer | | 100.00 | 100.00 | | |
| 18/10/13 | David Thorpe | 200064 | 450.00 | | | |
| 21/10/13 | Donations (19/10) | | 40.65 | | | |
| 23/10/13 | Annie Allen | 200065 | 160.00 | | | |
| 30/10/13 | Renew Wales (Egni Website) | | 650.00 | | | |
| 31/10/13 | Cyberium | 200066 | 650.00 | | | |
| 10/11/13 | Local printer' SH memorial | 200067 | 55.00 | | | |
| 18/11/13 | Llandeilo Civic Hall Trust | 200068 | 70.00 | | | |
| 25/11/13 | Trywydd | BACS | 116.00 | | | |
| 10/12/13 | Renew Wales | | 600.00 | | | |
| 24/12/13 | Cyberium | BACS | 600.00 | | | |
| 09/02/14 | Cyberium (webhosting) | BACS | 8.28 | | | |
| Totals | | | | | | |
| | | 2969.98 | 2575.70 | 106.00 | 137.92 | |
| | | | | | 3075.98 | 2713.62 |
| Closing balances | subtotals | | 765.81 | | 78.38 | |
| Closing Balance | | | | | | 844.19 |

* not banked see 09/02/14

Anson Allen moved that the accounts should be accepted by the AGM. This was seconded by John Gaffney and agreed unanimously.

Gerry said that he would be happier if in future the accounts were independently examined, and it was agreed that this should happen.

The fund set up by Pete Arnold for regular contributions now has a balance of about £500 and it was suggested that some of this could be used for the relaunch of the group.

Relaunch

A discussion around the relaunch of the group and its proposed name change took place.

Steve introduced the discussion and said that all of the 10 or so responses from the mailing list to a change to 'Transition Tywi' or 'Trawsnewid Tywi Transition' had been positive.

Pat proposed that 'Dinefwr' was more appropriate for the area we expected to cover.

Sandra said that Llandovery should definitely be included.

Veronica said that we should definitely not have the word 'Town' in the name – the area is primarily rural and so are many of the members of the group.

Neil Lewis said that there was no reason not to consider all of Carmarthenshire as being our real catchment area.

The discussion rapidly widened from considering the best name for the group.

Gerry pointed out that Transition Network were launching a 'scaling up' process, in recognition of the fact that conditions have changed since 2007. He suggested that we are now facing a planetary emergency and we must examine how to move forward as a much more active and strategic group in response to that emergency - which has opened up a gap between current activities and what is now needed. A period of reflection, discussion and networking of 3–6 months might be necessary. Eurgain Powell (CCC) offered to help us to communicate with the approximately 50 groups known to the Community Challenge.

David said that Eurgain and Jo Horsley (Environment Wales) could provide support for that process.

Sandra suggested that changing our name now was too early, if the group was in flux: we needed to know what might be the purpose of the group that was taking the new name.

At this point Sandra proposed that the current officers should be re-elected for an extension period of 3 months, to cover the period of determining the way forward. This was seconded by Pat and carried by the AGM.

A number of ideas about the next steps were mentioned, which the secretary summarised as 3 alternative plans which could be voted upon:

1. That an extraordinary AGM be called in one month's time. It would be hoped that many of those attending this AGM would return at that time with stronger ideas about a name and a direction for the group. The mailing list would be informed. The extraordinary meeting would focus entirely on this single topic.
2. A meeting should take place in one month's time involving not just the current membership of Transition Town Llandeilo: other groups involved in the Carmarthenshire Community Challenge should be invited too. We would take up the offer from Eurgain (and others) to communicate with other groups – with a summary/outline of the discussion, inviting them to come to the next meeting. Several of us should be available for discussion/explanation in advance. At the meeting, we should begin discussions about Carmarthenshire's response to the challenges of climate change, resource depletion, spending cuts, fracking etc.
3. We should enter a longer period (3 months) of debate and discussion with other groups, and have an extraordinary AGM in 3 months, at the end of the extended period of service of the current secretary and treasurer.

The meeting accepted the second of these proposals.

Thanks were expressed to the officers.

The AGM was followed by talks from Emma Clinker about gardening therapy at one of the Home Farm allotments for dementia sufferers, and David Darrell about the 'Grown in Wales' project. These had been arranged by Anson on behalf of the Amman-Towy Community Growers.

The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 11th March.