

## Minutes of the Transition Town Llandeilo AGM on 15/02/2011 at the Shire Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Sue Weaver (chair), Steve Brown, Gerry Gold, Anson Allen, Katka Dvorakova, Colin Foster, Tim Pullen, Lesley Cresswell, Tony Graf, Andy Hewson, Jenny Hewson, Pete Arnold, John Gaffney, Esyllt Harker, Anne van Mechelen, Sandra Ozolins, Simon Good  
Apologies: Rhiannon Rowley

Sue introduced the evening  
Steve summed up the year:

**Main Events** since the last AGM (November 2009):

3 new groups came out of that meeting. Energy has continued convened by Tim Pullen. John Cox, who wanted to convene a Transport group, was unable to do so because of ill health, and Ellie Birchell Hughes, who convened a Food and Farming group for a few months, was unable to continue.

We organised a hustings for the General Election. The meeting took place at the Rugby Club on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

We were at the Welsh launch of the Prince of Wales' Start Initiative on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September, and were then invited to form part of the Carmarthenshire Community Challenge advisory. Tim and Anson have attended some of their meetings.

Amongst a number of talks to outside groups, Tim and Gerry had a successful visit to Llanddeusant WI.

Sue Weaver decided to put the Heart and Soul group into hibernation after falling attendances. Steve thanked her for her work in convening this group.

We now have just three active groups - Energy and Transport; New Economics; and Permaculture – with an affiliation from Cymdeithas y Dalar.

### Financial Report from Gerry Gold

Cash in the bank is currently £533

We have been offered grants of a total of £6000 but have been unable to decide how to use the money.

<b>Transition Town Llandeilo - Financial Report 2009/10</b>				
<b>Expenditure</b>				392.13
<b>Income</b>				91.16
			<b>Grand Total</b>	-300.97
	<b>Bank</b>	<b>Cash</b>		<b>Total</b>
Opening balance	688.82	70.66		759.48
Closing Balance	339.69	118.82		458.51
			<b>Excess of Expenditure over income</b>	-300.97

### Change to structure of group

The steering group at its last two meetings had discussed changing the structure of Transition Town Llandeilo to reduce the number of evening meetings held in Llandeilo each month. The membership of the New Economics, Energy, and Steering groups has considerable overlap and several people felt that more would be achieved if there were fewer meetings overall.

It was agreed by those present that the Steering Group should no longer exist. Instead, a single regular meeting should be held each month: it should be advertised widely and be open to all. Sub-groupings can come into existence from time to time around specific projects but may then fade away again once their work is complete.

Amongst the suggestions and comments made during this debate, the following are significant:

Tim Pullen: Education should be central to our purpose

Andy Hewson: A few mission statements are needed for the benefit of the outside world. YFC could be useful to us. Youth is needed

Tony Graf: We need to reach out to the Welsh-speaking community

Gerry Gold: Transition is about finding alternative ways of organising society. Only by becoming more effective *politically* can we achieve our goals.

Sandra Ozolins: We need to pull in our energy, focus more, and *make sure the outside world knows*

Sue Weaver will advertise the next meeting in The Post.

#### Election of officers

Gerry Gold offered to remain as Treasurer for a further year. He was duly elected.

Steve Brown offered to remain as Secretary for a further year. He was duly elected.

#### Sainsbury's

The New Economics group put forward a proposal for a broad public discussion around the role of Sainsbury's in Llandeilo and, more broadly, the roles of supermarkets and global agribusiness, how this proposal fits into the bigger picture, and what the alternatives are. Gerry will co-ordinate a project to get other community groups involved and promote a meeting – a People's Assembly - to take this discussion forward.

Tony and Tim thought that our energy should be put into influencing how they operate here if the plan goes ahead – sourcing locally, choosing the best routes for their lorries.

Gerry mentioned the fact that supermarkets inevitably seek to increase profits by forcing down the prices paid to their suppliers. He said that only a not-for-profit system can avoid dependence on continued economic growth.

Sue stressed the importance of local resilience.

Anne mentioned how supermarket deliveries to households in an area like this can undermine small scale local systems of food production and distribution.

#### Forthcoming public events

We are aiming to have a public meeting involving Alexis Rowell, author of "Communities, Councils and a Low-Carbon Future". This should be a meeting for the county and involve county councillors. Gerry is arranging this.

Anson is arranging another meeting with Colin King, the director for Wales of the Building Research Establishment. Tim suggested that the theme should be "How housing development in Wales is going to change in the next 18 months" and that we should aim for a half-day public meeting with local building suppliers and other speakers.

Sue is arranging a Hustings for the WAG elections in May. Sandra will help.

#### Seed, Plant and Tool Swap at Dinefwr Home Farm 6<sup>th</sup> March

This is being arranged by CyD and the Permaculture group.

#### Tywi Valley Small Communities

Pete introduced this project. There is now a bank account and people can start putting money regularly into it. The group will then decide how best to spend the money.

The aim is to provide services, facilities, supplies or products which promote and/or are within the ethos of the Transition movement for the benefit of the members, e.g.

- services which are not provided elsewhere because they are not economic but which have other benefits such as local development and resilience, the substitution of finite resources with renewable ones, removal of debt dependence
- services which are provided but which can be provided in a more sustainable way in competition with the other providers

- services which can be provided locally rather than remotely

Workshop evenings

Tim flagged this for discussion at the next meeting.

CAVS (Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services)

Sandra recommended this as an excellent free resource for community groups.

The next regular full meeting will be at the Shire Hall on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm