

Minutes of the Transition Town Llandeilo AGM on 15/02/2012 at the Angel, Llandeilo at 7.30 pm

Present: Steve Harris (chair), Steve Brown, Gerry Gold, Anson Allen, Katka Dvorakova, Colin Foster, Tony Graf, Madeleine Graf, Sue Weaver, Sue Wakefield, John Gaffney, Patricia Dodd Racher

Apologies: Kathleen Raymond-Barker, Tim Pullen, David Thorpe

The chair introduced the evening

The minutes from the 2011 AGM were accepted.

It was noted that the anticipated meeting with Alexis Rowell had not taken place. The seed swap had gone ahead. The Tywi Valley Small Communities Fund now exists and is constituted.

Secretary's Report:

The AGM on 15th February 2011 supported a change in the structure of the group to reduce the number of meetings. We hoped that this would lead to a greater focus on action rather than discussion.

The main events since then have been:

21st April. Hustings for the Welsh Government election, chaired by Rhiannon Rowley. As with the General Election hustings the year before, this was the principal public hustings in the Llandeilo. Of the six panellists, two became AMs for the region - Simon Thomas (PC) and William Powell (LD).

21st May. Feast for El Salvador at Sue Weaver's. This was a fundraising event for a Permaculture centre in El Salvador.

27th June. Sustainable Homes event at the Civic Hall. This was organised by Anson Allen and Tim Pullen. Tim, Simon Bowkett and Colin King (Building Research Establishment) spoke. Attendance was good.

21st July. Public meeting at The Angel to determine local opinion about Sainsbury's planning application for the Rhosmaen site. This was organised by Gerry Gold and Jessica Wecker and chaired by Sue Weaver. The meeting led directly to the creation of the group 'Save Llandeilo's Future'.

15th October. First Home Harvest at The Works. This was initiated by Annie Davis and Carol Greenstock and allows the swapping of surplus produce on a regular basis. It ran on alternate Saturdays until Christmas and will start again in spring or summer 2012.

11th December. Midwinter Tea at the Civic Hall organised by Katka Dvorakova for Cymdeithas y Dalar and Transition Town Llandeilo, in association with Dinefwr Green Group.

19th January. Open Forum at the Rugby Club focusing on the future of the Provisions Market building, organised by Gerry Gold following an approach from Dai Jones to the Dryslwyn Community Shop. Representatives of the town and county councils, Menter Bro Dinefwr and Ffres (Carmarthenshire Tourist Association) were present and the event was supported by The Wales Cooperative Centre.

Reports from Groups

John Gaffney – Permaculture

The group has continued to hold roughly monthly working meetings. Several new members have got involved. Another Seed Swap is being arranged for Sunday April 1st. Alan Bellamy is taking over as convenor.

Anson Allen – Llandeilo Growers

This is a new group with 7 or 8 active members which aims to set up a community/commercial vegetable growing operation. Incorporation was due to be completed during February. The group is seeking lottery funding.

Gerry Gold – New Economics Group

The group has met 4 or 5 times this year. A discussion of the current democratic deficit led to an agreement that a People's Assembly for Llandeilo and the Towy valley was needed. The Sainsbury's planning application provided an opportunity. The meeting on 21st July was designed to be inclusive of the community and to welcome the expression of a broad range of opinion. The meeting led to the creation of 'Save Llandeilo's Future' which is autonomous. Similarly, the request from Dai Jones came to the Transition Town Llandeilo New Economics Group. 71 people attended the Open Forum. While several organisations were involved, Transition Town was seen as having the broadest purview. The meeting led to the foundation of the autonomous "Market Hall Regeneration Group". The support from CCC has been very welcome.

Discussion of "Save Llandeilo's Future" and the "Market Hall Regeneration Group"

Patricia reported the latest news that the Trunk Road Agency would like Sainsbury's to provide a pedestrian bridge across the A40, which Sainsbury's is resisting. If the Agency is satisfied, the planning officers at Carmarthen will recommend approval for the plans.

The AGM agreed unanimously that Gerry and Jessica were to be congratulated on their hard work for the meetings that gave rise to these two groups, and subsequently, in support of Transition aims.

Financial Report from Gerry Gold

Cash in the bank is currently £282.05

ACTION : Gerry will supply more detailed accounts are to be added to these minutes later.

The AGM expressed thanks to all those that gave us support by offering services to us free of charge, including The Angel and the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and Colin Foster for hosting the website.

Eco-homes Tour and Discussion of Funding

John Gaffney has applied to LEAF, the Brecon Beacons Trust and Menter Cwm Gwendraeth for funds to subsidise the eco-homes tour which he has been organising. This is a time consuming business and it was suggested that there is value in having a pot of money readily available for when it is needed. It wasn't clear whether a subsidy for the tour could come from TL2 funds but **it was resolved that an event furthering the aims of TL2 should have access to the funds held by TL2.**

Tim Pullen, David Thorpe and Mark Waghorn are acting as consultants for the tour.

ACTION : Sue Weaver kindly agreed to help John with arranging the eco-homes tour.

ACTION : John will talk to Eurgain Powell (CCC) about other possible sources of funding.

ACTION : Next meeting will discuss how TL2 can develop guidelines on Finance, including how to answer these questions :

- **What do we want funds for?**
- **How can the funds be accessed**
- **How do we use retained funds to promote social inclusion?**

ACTION : Patricia will send the Secretary a document with ideas about funding, for further circulation

Election of officers

Gerry Gold offered to remain as Treasurer for a further year. His nomination by Sue Weaver was seconded by Anson Allen and he was elected unanimously.

Steve Brown offered to remain as Secretary for a further year. His nomination by Patricia Dodd Racher was seconded by Tony Graf and he was elected unanimously.

The AGM expressed its gratitude to Steve and Gerry.

Patricia Dodd Racher volunteered to act as Press Officer. The meeting agreed that this would be a very useful new post. Anson Allen proposed, Katka Dvorakova seconded, and Patricia was elected unanimously.

Katka Dvorakova offered to share stands taken for CyD at local events such as the Revels in the Park with TL2, provided that TL2 provided materials. The AGM gratefully accepted this offer.

After this review of activities the AGM agreed that Transition Town Llandeilo was fulfilling an important role as an umbrella organisation for Transition and sustainability in Llandeilo and the surrounding area, and committed to continue to do so for another year.

Forthcoming events and activities

March 24/25: Eco-homes Safari

Public entertainment / fundraising.

ACTION : Steve Harris will send film suggestions to the Secretary.

Summer Party

ACTION : Sue Wakefield will send John Gaffney information related to Noson Allan.

Market Hall Regeneration Group

Gerry suggested that this project had great potential for local sustainable development and should be one of our focuses this year.

Statement

TL2 will maintain a watching brief on local developments with transport, including the bypass and Heart of Wales railway line. Good liason with Martin Golder (Cynnal Cymru) and Gill Wright (Heart of Wales Line Development Company) will help this aim.

The meeting thanked Steve Harris for his excellent chairing.

The next meeting of Transition Town Llandeilo will be at the Shire Hall on 13th March at 7.30 pm.