

## **Minutes of the TL2 Steering Group Meeting on 17/03/2008 at the Civic Hall, Llandeilo**

**Present:** Sue Weaver (chair), Isabel Lovelock, Simon Bowkett, Anne Van Mechelen, Jo Horsley (Environment Wales – EW), John Gaffney, Gerry Gold, Chris Evans, Steve Brown

**Apologies:** Alice Davies, Rhiannon Rowley, Neil Keidan, Anson Allen

### Introductions

We welcomed Chris Evans. Chris is a Permaculture teacher and works in Nepal with Appropriate Technology Asia. Together with his partner Looby Macnamara he will be running our next Permaculture courses.

### Minutes from 18/02/2008

Agreed.

### Policies

We were not well prepared for this discussion. Only Anne had considered the Volunteering policy. This discussion was deferred to the next meeting, with the option of having an additional meeting to finalise decisions, since a full discussion of policies could easily occupy an entire evening.

**Isabel will take responsibility for an Equal Ops policy. Steve to ensure that he has supplied her with all of the related documents passed to him by Jo.**

**Anne will take responsibility for a Volunteering policy.**

**Rhiannon will take responsibility for a Welsh language policy.**

**Steve will ask TT Totnes whether they have an Environmental policy we could use as a model, and check that we have a possible Health and Safety policy.**

### Visit from Rob Hopkins (now to be postponed)

It has been decided to postpone this visit. This is partly because of the cost, partly because of the date coming so soon after Ben Brangwyn's visit, and partly because Alice had ideas for interesting the farming community by inviting representatives of local farming to a meeting with Rob, to help stimulate debate – and this couldn't be organised in time for the end of April.

Alice also wants to talk to Simon about an alternative energy day for farmers. This seems like the best way of getting farmers to notice what TL2 is doing. Simon suggested that we won't get farmers interested unless we can demonstrate how they can cut waste and increase profitability. It is essential that we appear credible. Ideas such as farm energy audits or a demonstration farm were mentioned. Although Jo thought that we might want to avoid duplicating the effort of other groups, Isabel said it was important to link projects to the basic TT concept and try to get people on board, as well as offering practical ideas. **Simon and Alice will make contact with each other to discuss the alternative energy day concept, and other ways of getting farmers interested. Meanwhile Rob will be postponed indefinitely until we know how to get the most out of his visit. Rhiannon will phone Rob to do so.**

### Transition Wales Network Meeting March 22nd

Rhiannon and Sue will attend.

### Transition Network Conference Cirencester 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April

No one from Llandeilo is likely to be attending.

### Transition Training 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April at Sue's

16 people at least are needed and we have not yet reached that number of bookings. We may be able to offer bursaries if we get enough bookings – since we stand to make £300 or so at full fees.

**Sue will mention the training at Builth on the 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Simon will contact Machynlleth people.**

**Isabel will email Miriam in the fledgling Swansea group (and will also invite representatives of that group to Llandeilo to meet some of us).**

**Simon will provide a flipchart for that weekend.**

**Chris will bring a digital projector.**

**Sue will let the trainers know that there will not be large-scale photocopying facilities on site.**

### Start up grant application to EW

**Rhiannon will visit Jo on 4<sup>th</sup> April to deal with this.**

### Finances

Sue reported that Ben's talk raised £90. There is more than £300 in the account. Jo pointed out that we would be more inclusive if we covered expenses as part of our Volunteering policy. Anne said that covering transport and food costs (for meetings over a certain length) was normal in groups like ours.

**Isabel will bring a template for an expense form to the next meeting.**

### AGM

Sue suggested that we should have one at some time in the 12 months after December 2007, when the constitution was agreed. This would allow her to present accounts. October, linked to a local food event, was the preferred month.

**Sue will contact Amman Valley Enterprises about getting a training in accounting.**

### Ideas for events

How to Save The World, a film from New Zealand. **Sue and Isabel to view before recommending a screening.**

Seize The Day – gig – Isabel will be able to get them here around September/October. This could be linked to the AGM. Possible venues were discussed, but we should anticipate a crowd!

Ranyl Rhydwen should be able to come down from Machynlleth to talk about Hemp, linked with an afternoon visit to Gower to a trial plot. **Anson and Simon will arrange this for July.**

A Permaculture Open Day – **John and Chris will arrange this.**

Paul Davies' talk about apples is still on the calendar for Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup>.

We should have a stall at the Llandeilo show in August.

Anson has suggested other possible speakers – Molly Scott Cato (author and economist, TT Stroud), Patricia Dodd Racher (local author), Philip James (National Trust Area Manager South West Wales).

### **Rough calendar of events**

**Early May – How To Save The World (film)**

**Late May – Apple talk with Paul Davies**

**June – Permaculture Open Day**

**June/July/August – Alternative Energy Day for Farmers**

**July – Hemp event with Ranyl Rhydwen**

**August – Llandeilo show**

**September/October – Seize The Day, local food event, and AGM**

### **Feedback from Subgroups**

**Hemp** (Anson) – The Hemp group will be visited a hemp plantation on Gower on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Alternative Energy** (Simon) – Meetings mostly take the form of a ‘developers’ forum’. Guto Owen from Carmarthenshire Energy coming to next meeting. There is interest in the idea of an Energy Audit, but Jo reported a lack of funding for this. John mentioned that Burdens in Llangadog is one of only 4 in the UK chosen to stock ecoproducts e.g. hemp insulation.

**Permaculture** (John) – The first Introduction to Permaculture course held this month was largely successful. Chris and Looby will facilitate the next – dates are being discussed. Further meetings of the group will be working meetings taking place at in member’s gardens, with shared food.

**Food and Farming** (Isabel) – At the last meeting there was discussion about getting the best value from a visit from Rob – which led to the decisions above. Alice is writing an article for Gwlad and is discussing with the Soil Association the idea of a ‘halfway house’ to being organic. The orchard land that was under consideration will not be available until 2009. Meanwhile there is another possible site next to LBS in Llandeilo.

**Heart and Soul** (Sue) – Two meetings have taken place so far. The group is having an interesting time discussing its purpose.

Allotments – dealing with planning issues is still the focus of activity.

The next meeting will be held at the Angel on 21st April at 7 pm. **Sue will book the room.** All are welcome to attend and participate.