

# Sustainable Thornbury Annual General Meeting 19 May 2010

## Minutes

### Formal Business

**Attendance:** Gavin Kent, Alan Pinder, Margaret Pinder, Judith Dale, Bob Dale, Marian Stephens, , Brett Harrison, Mair Vaughan, Chris Carter, Nick Barnard, Di Barnard, Val Harding, Raymond Day, Maggie Jeffery, Jane Gilliard, Steve Gilliard, Clive Parkinson, Marian Reeve, Paula Hunt, Andrew Mearman

**Apologies for Absence:** Elizabeth Vooght, Felicity Harrison, Clare Fardell, Freddie Keey, Barbara Day, Jerry Harding,

#### 1. **Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes had been previously circulated and were signed by Chair as a true record.

2. **Secretary's report** was sent out with the agenda. Brett indicated a late piece of news – that South Gloucestershire Council have earmarked a piece of land next to Thornbury Leisure Centre as a new allotment site. They are just awaiting a formal request from Thornbury Town Council in order to settle matters.
3. **Treasurer's report** was handed out at the meeting and circulated on 18 May. Raymond indicated that we had had mixed success with our programme of events this year. Our Thornbury showing of the Age of Stupid was a significant success with a full house but the other films and talks around the local villages were more mixed in the number of people attending. Overall, there was a small loss over the whole programme. The bulk of our income has been through grants. We have been helped by grant funding from South Gloucestershire Council, Alveston Parish Council, Thornbury Town Council and The Co-operative Group. Even with the grant funding and some generous donations from members, we made a small loss (around £38) for the year. Raymond pointed out that in the current economic climate, we cannot presume that we will continue to receive grant funding at the level we have done. The accounts are yet to be formally approved by Bob (who has undertaken this role for the last few years) – mostly because the timescale between the end of the year and the AGM is so short. Bob indicated that the thrust of the accounts were accurate and that the detailed differences were in the region of £2-3. Alan Pinder proposed that we consider moving the AGM to a later date in future years to ensure that there is enough time to complete the check. It was agreed to check the constitution and to ensure that sufficient time is given next year.

Alan also asked the group to thank the Committee formally who he said had done a fantastic job this year. The Chair thanked all the other members of the group who had taken on extra roles this year, in particular Gill Denning for her work at the Environment Committee, Marian Stephens for her support for the Grow Your Own Food Group and Judith Dale for her work on the EcoFair.

4. **Election of Officers** (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, any other posts as decided). The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary all indicated that they were stepping down this year. Prior to the day, we had received the following nominations: Bob Dale (Chair), Freddie Keey (Secretary), Derry Jordan (Membership Secretary). There were no nominations for Treasurer or Deputy Chair. The role of Treasurer is one that is required by the constitution. Bob Dale indicated a willingness to take on that role if someone else would be willing to be Chair. Paula Hunt accepted a proposal to take on the role and was proposed by Margaret Pinder, seconded by Bob Dale. Bob was proposed as Treasurer and seconded by Raymond Day. As we had two proposals for Chair, a vote was taken and Paula unanimously elected as Chair. All other posts were filled as above.

## **Newly - Elected Chair Paula Hunt took over meeting and invited Bob Dale to take the item on membership subscriptions**

5. **Membership subscriptions for 2010-2011** were reviewed as required in the constitution. A proposal had been received by the Committee to consider several options for changing the subscription which had been circulated with the AGM notification. No comments had been received prior to the meeting. Bob set out the three options proposed:
- a. **Status quo – continue to have free membership**
  - b. **Small minimum charge per annum, either per person or per household**
  - c. **Commitment-based charge – people either paid a fee or gave some time during the year to supporting events**

Bob said that to raise around £600 per annum, at current membership levels, option b would mean a charge of about £5 and option c a charge of around £30 or a minimum of 6 hours dedicated time. Bob pointed out that £600 was around  $\frac{1}{3}$  –  $\frac{1}{2}$  of our budget over the last couple of years. There was a considerable amount of discussion about levels of charge and whether that would reduce our membership significantly; whether people would want more specific things for a membership fee such as monthly speakers. Some members who are not regular attenders or helpers stated that they would like the opportunity to support the group through a membership fee as they could not regularly commit time. There was concern that charging a fee might put off some grant funding bodies. Clive Parkinson said that although that was possible, it was also likely that other grant funders would look to a group to provide some of its own funding – sometimes even on a matched basis.

Vote was taken on the 3 options: Option 1- no votes, Option 2- 13 votes, Option 3- 2 votes, Abstentions 5.

There was discussion on the level of minimum fee to be set. There were two options proposed -1) £5 per person or 2) a minimum of £5 per person or £8 per household where there was more than one member. There was a unanimous vote for option 2.

## **6. AOB**

- a. In the absence of any other business, Paula closed the meeting at 20.05