**Minutes of Transition Chesterfield AGM held at The Eco-Hub, Low Pavements on Monday 6 November 2023 at 19.00.**

**Present**: Alastair Meikle (Chair), Lisa Hopkinson, Martin Baxter, Charlie Streather, Kathy Farr, Sheila Curzon, Alison Cowley, Karl Deakin, Chris Brooks, Margaret Hersee (Secretary), Wendy Pinchbeck, Andie Cooper, Paul King, Adrian Rimington, Gail Wagstaff, Annie Baldauf-Good, Carolyn Brooks, Ed Brooks, Barbara Sansome.

**Apologies**: Lizzie Henshaw, Kevin Karaca, Graham Lyndon, Ann Birks.

1. **Welcome**

Alastair had agreed to chair the meeting. All present introduced themselves.

1. **Project Updates**

**The following updates were provided in addition to the written updates circulated ahead of the meeting:**

**Eco-homes:** Lisa summarised the activities for the year. Grant from DCC in 2022 for Energy Advice Leaflet which has since been distributed far and wide and has also been updated. Eco-Homes event held early Oct 23 starting with a talk by a Green Architect and several open homes for which around 100 people took part.

Now taking part in a regional project run by DCC for people who can afford home improvements.

**Divest:** Lisa described the activities over the year. Derbyshire-wide campaign to get DCC to divest its pension funds from unethical investments, in particular, fossil fuels. Oil Monster, Webinar, Film Screening and Briefing on Investment holdings, Questions Lodged with Ombudsman and Lobbying of DCC meetings and Councillors within Derbyshire.

**Pedestrian Surveys:** Walk of Fame & Shame in the Newsletter. Survey conducted (Lisa & Sheila) of Pedestrian Crossings in the Town Centre. Report sent to DCC and CBC. Walk submitted based on findings to the Walking Festival for 2024.

**Planning**: Lisa has submitted several objections to planning proposals on the group’s behalf. The main recent one has been regarding the Waterside Development. Meeting on site achieved with council officers and various interested parties. Woodall refusing to pay contribution for walking and cycling, appeal held and Inspector upheld the complaint.

Also campaigned on Derbyshire Minerals Plan, mostly organised by Friends of the Earth and Derbyshire-wide. Led to improved policies.

**Littersorters:** Kathy noted that Peter Gray had undertaken First Aid training and was now jointly leading this monthly activity. Data is being collected and once it reaches the end of a year, the aim is to present graphically.

**Skillshare:** No report as Margaret had not had spare time to take this on and no-one had come forward to lead.

**Crafters Bazaar:** Sheila reported that some issues with proposed date of third Sunday in May for 2024 as market being refurbished. New Square market only has 37 stalls; total of 52 booked this year. Cost not confirmed but discussions ongoing.

**Plastic Free Chesterfield:** Karlupdated thatFestival was held in July, less interest probably due to the weather. No new organiser for the Festival has come forward. Some suggestion of a National Plastic Free gathering, possibly in Leicester. The group itself is less active although TC still supports its aims.

**Potato Day**: Preparations already under way for PD 2024 and Steph Watts is now helping Alastair with orders. The aim is for others to take over the responsibility from Alastair by 2025. 140 pre-orders so far, down from last year. It was agreed that left over stock would be bagged up during PD afternoon and sold at reduced price the following Saturday, rather than transporting to Inspire and then remainder donated where possible.

**Repair Café:** Events been running successfully. Wendy noted that Oct event cancelled due to local floods day before. PAT tester to be tested annually. Event booking for 2024 to sorted with church.

**Abundance:** Alison reported that picking had still been successful in spite of crops being poor this year. Display at library in July brought in new volunteer pickers. Juicing arrangement with Sheffield project Regather had not been possible.

Four apple pressing events held, two during Half Term in conjunction with CBC – generally successful in spite of weather conditions. First event included Skillshare with apple recipes.

**Green Drinks**: next event first Monday in December, at the Spread Eagle, Beetwell Street.

**Seed Swap:** Included with stall promotions where appropriate. Will be included in next EcoHub Friday event. Also at PD. Seeds collecting needed at this time of year.

**Eco Hub:** Karl reported that grant money from CBC obtained in May and now opening up on Friday mornings at The Hub, starting from 29th September 2023. So far, sessions on Energy Advice, Induction to Transition and now a full programme of events planned until end of year including Green Mapping. Hub available at weekend and evenings to enable the EcoHub to host more events from January onwards. Aim is to promote all projects, exchange ideas and build relationships. Storage also available. Meeting 4th December to plan for 2024.

**Better Buses:** Working with Chesterfield Pensioners Group on this campaign. Lisa had coordinated a Day of Action across Derbyshire early Oct which gained good media coverage. Next meeting 15th November, 6-8pm, Tontine Centre. Adrian proposing to lobby the new Mayor on this issue.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

This had been circulated in advance and Margaret summarised the main points. One question raised about the CBC Climate Forum which Kathy had attended to represent TC. Due to absence of Forum’s Chair, Councillor Martin Stone, there was lack of clarity regarding aims and purposes of the group. Hope this will be clearer at the next meeting on 22nd November.

Also updated: current membership stands at 73.

1. **Report on Finances 2022-23**

Margaret presented the balance sheet for the above Financial Year, due to the absence of the Treasurer. As explained in the Secretary’s report, there had been ongoing issues throughout the year regarding access to the Virgin account which were not fully resolved and, currently only Margaret had access to the account. Margaret also noted that the year had been covered by two Treasurers: Darryl and Ed. The Committee had decided that, post AGM, the group’s account would be transferred across to the Co-operative Bank that still had a branch in Chesterfield.

Further difficulties had arisen in getting the accounts passed by an Independent Examiner, as required by the TC constitution.

Margaret thanked Darryl, Ed and Alastair for their contributions.

Margaret then talked the attendees through the presentation of the accounts. She also provided an update:

* Bank balance end Oct23: £7677.70 (includes grant monies), cash balance: £352.28
* Grants,
  + Crafters Bazaar almost spent.
  + Restart – hoping to spend on two new RCs starting up nearby.
  + Eco-Hub – needs to be spent by May24 and charges for storage need sorting.
  + Skillshare – needs to be spent mid 2024 but organiser needed.
* Currently around £3296 unrestricted funding available to the group.

Margaret requested that members rely less on grant money where possible as this adds to the burden of the Treasurer’s role.

Independent Examiner’s recommendations:

* 1. Continuation of the use of the spreadsheet showing the analysis of income and expenditure on a single tab to make it easier to vouch analysis of income and expenditure and verify cash and bank receipts and payments.
  2. Consecutive numbering of backing documentation eg invoices and cross referencing to the spreadsheet.
  3. Counting and certifying of cash balance half yearly by a committee member..
  4. Total cash donations from an event should be recorded and signed off by a committee member. Perhaps with the use of a receipt book or something similar.

Additional recommendations by Margaret:

4.5 For small regular items, eg milk at RC, this money should be taken out of donations to reduce work for Treasurer.

4.6 Treasurer and other committee members should be given an allowance for printing costs, suggested amount of £10; this would need to be receipted. Amount to be reviewed at next AGM.

Post meeting note: The constitution states that remuneration of Independent Examiner to be set at the AGM. The committee subsequently agreed to send him a Stanfords voucher, due to the extensive work that he had contributed.

Suggestion was made by Adrian that group could consider ways to generate funding at May Day. However, it was noted that stalls can be held just for promotion and don’t have to raise funds.

Accounts were approved: Proposed, Martin Baxter; Seconded, Lisa Hopkinson, all agreed.

Thanks were given to Margaret for presenting the accounts and ensuring that the Independent Examiner was able to certify them.

1. **Appointment of Officers and Committee**

Kathy, Karl and Margaret were willing to continue in office for a further year (final year for Margaret). Margaret would stand down as Secretary and take on the Treasurer role. Andie Cooper who has been helping out at the Eco Hub and is leading on Green Mapping, agreed to join the Committee. Secretary role tasks to be divided up post AGM.

Thanks were given to the outgoing members of the Committee for their work over the last year.

8.15pm. Adrian and Gail left the meeting.

1. **Principles of Transition Network.**

Kathy led a discussion reminding people of the principles of the Transition Movement and the aims and objectives of TC. This information can also be found on the TC website. Kathy then invited people to work in small groups to consider how new volunteers could be included in TC activities and what groups of people we would want to target to get them more actively involved as volunteers. Feedback from the small group discussions will be considered by the committee and at future general meetings.

1. **Minutes of 2022 AGM & EGM**

These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed to be a true record of both meetings.

Proposed: Lisa; Seconded: Alastair.

1. **Any other business.**

**8.1** Lisa explained that Friends of the Earth are coordinating a programme of lobbying of candidates for the forthcoming East Midlands Mayoral Elections and that she is representing TC within that process. The lobbying is structured around 9 climate themes which are consistent with TC aims for a low carbon future. Kathy asked that Lisa consider ways to get as many TC members as possible actively involved in this sort of lobbying activity. A similar plan for lobbying on the theme of Active Travel is to be coordinated by Sustrans and TC have also been invited to be part of that activity. Lisa will continue promote these lobbying opportunities through the monthly newsletter.

**8.2** Kathy said that there is currently a petition in circulation for individuals to sign in support of the United for Warm Homes campaign. TC as a group is a supporter of the campaign but locally Climate Action North East Derbyshire is hosting any activities.

**8.3** Comms meeting rescheduled to Monday 27 November at 7pm via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm. Alastair thanked all for attending.