

Notes TS Council meeting - 2 April 2024

Present: Jess Farr, Adrian Oldman, Martin Whiteside, Caroline Pankhurst, Isabel Clark, Richard Lupo, Shalize Nicholas, Gill Thomas

Apologies: Dmytro Bojaniwskyj, Katherina Child, Nigel Westaway, Chris Carnegy

1. Voting on Gill Thomas and I isabel Clark as Directors

AO and MW proposed both IC and GT as Directors, and all present Directors voted approval (AO, MW and CP). Dmytro Bojaniwskyj sent a written statement of approval in advance.

Actions:

- JF or CC to update Companies House.

2. Financial update - incl insurance and SDC core grant approach

- CC sent round a statement in advance:

Since the last meeting there have been three key developments:

- we have, with permission from Stroud District Council, transferred the residue of their CAN-support grant into our unrestricted fund. This recognises that our core business-as-usual is about supporting the activities of the CANs and similar groups.

- money has arrived in several project pots as a result of the fantastic recent spate of grant-bid successes. In each case the as-yet-unspent amount is listed as 'deferred income', waiting to be matched with project expenditure.

- our insurers have added the e-bike project to our policy as from 01 April, and their renewal offer for the year starting 24 April also covers the big 'Stroud Imagines Transition' event planned for the autumn. The total cost is £1,294.88, around half of which is for e-bikes and is provided for in that project's budget. I need a director's approval before I pay.

Directors agreed it was difficult to assess as we are in the middle of several grant spends.

- JF and AO have an upcoming 3 year core grant meeting with SDC on 22nd April.

Agree to report back to Directors before agreeing anything proposed at the meeting.

- Directors favour core funding agreement that reflects increasing costs over time.

3. E-bikes

Taken from report sent round in advance:

- First e-bike training held with The Bike Drop 2 weeks ago with 9 volunteers. First booking and payment system training being held this 1pm, Wednesday.
- Landing / holding page: [want to try an e-bike? – Transition Stroud](#)
- We are using Lend Engine booking system - micro site still in development (has had technical delays but now back on track): [Transition Stroud \(lend-engine.com\)](#) - currently in development.
- Still have some paperwork to finish (user agreement, volunteer guides, checklists, loan information) - currently in development.
- 3 Hubs now lined up - to start operating from early April in the following order:
 - 1: Minchinhampton (1 e-bike). Just need secure space signed off. MOU now signed.
 - 2: Brimscombe & Wider Area (2 e-bikes). Need MOU to be signed.
 - 3: Stonehouse (2 e-bikes). Shed to be built (Bridge Cafe) and MOU to be signed.
 - 4: Nailsworth potentially later in the year. Have in principle match funding lined up through REPF.
- 12 volunteers so far across the 3 Hubs.
- 13 ahead enquiries / interest in loaning out *and growing*.
- We now have all match funding signed off and in our account apart from £500 from Minch Hub and REPF needs final paperwork / agreement before sign off.
- We have 3 e-bikes for Minch and Brimscombe but can't buy any further e-bikes for Stonehouse until REPF is signed off in case they refuse retrospective funding. This should happen in the next few weeks.
- Aiming for most - if not all - Hubs to be active by end of April. Minch by 15th April.

Actions:

- JF to share invite for first systems info session to all Directors
- E-bike team to seek legal advice on trading with Cocomo

4. GreenSeen

Taken from report sent round in advance:

- All up and running but still needs a lot of publicity / pushing to promote. Have planned a series of direct emails, and put an ad in April's Good on Paper.
- To have proper promotion push soon, in tandem with SVP's soon to be published Wild about Stroud brochure. This was delayed, but now due to be published in a week. We can promote at Stroud Farmer's market on 20th April as SVP have a stall.
- Kerri is going to promote GS weekly.
- Kerri, myself and Chloe are meeting 10th April so we can learn how to update GS events.

Actions:

- JF to direct load some events
- JF to send CP DB's promo list and a stock email to encourage orgs to register
- JF to send full list round and make editable to all Directors can ad to it

- JF to work with Chloe Cox to Change 'Registration' to 'sign up; and make process more easy to engage with
- JF to ask Chloe Cox for a report in time for next Director's meeting

5. CAN Forum

Not covered in meeting but from report sent round in advance:

- Next meeting not fixed but will be on ideas generation and planning for Stroud Imagines Transition (date TBC).
- Still outstanding: a meeting for biodiversity interested CANs to see if a programme of work can be developed on this strand.
- Meeting with Charlie this month to start planning a Cashes Green CAN launch event.
- Have been supporting Stonehouse CAN members to start up a new monthly Climate Cafe as well as a community building monthly meet up. These will start in April and May.
- Have also been supporting Standish council member (CAN contact) to set up a nature and biodiversity event for May and upto St Leonard to plan more tree planting activities.

6. Community Energy

Taken from report sent round in advance:

- Community Energy / CANs meeting on 13th March was really well attended, 34 people from 10 different CANs plus others (including parish council reps). A lot of enthusiasm for follow-up work to focus on working with Centre for Sustainable Energy's consultation (Future Energy Landscapes) tools to run parish level community consultations and pre-feasibility research events. In discussions with CSE over costs for a potential train the trainer session for interested CANs.
- Have sent a letter of support for a bid to develop more solar installations across Gloucestershire that includes £10k towards feasibility studies for community energy in Stroud District for Severn Wye Energy Agency.
- Also planning to apply for funding for feasibility study through Regen.
- Stroud Commons have been in touch to see if we would like to collaborate on a university-led research project into collective energy buying for 2 different Stroud communities.
- Next meeting on 5th April, featuring a speaker from Bristol based community energy project.

Actions:

- AO to ask SACEN whether they want to open group up or run more public information sessions and whether TS can access some of the Seed funding to help pay for support
- JF to send all Directors post CAN event info on FEL / Centre for Sustainable Energy

7. Stroud Imagines Transition

Taken from report sent round in advance:

- MOU with Stroud Imagine signed and funding now in TS bank account.
- Still searching for a venue and date but have followed up on some of Dmytro's suggestions and will probably be able to pin this down in the next week or two.
- May have to bump to later in Sept or early October in order to work around a planned Stroud Commons festival for mid Sept.
- Next steps: design monitoring / outputs with the core organising team, have a 2nd planning meeting and produce a project plan.

Actions:

- JF to check dates for late Sept and pursue St Lawrence as a venue
- JF to ask Robin Layfield to join the core organising group
- JF to sort our first organising meeting group date and establish committee structure

8. AOB

- SN to approach Ecotricity / Dale Vince for meanwhile space - JF to forward secretary details
- Next Directors meeting to be held at The Ale House on 9th May 2024, 7pm.
Future dates for 2024:
 - 9th May
 - 20th June
 - 1st Aug
 - 12th Sep
 - 24th Oct
 - 5th Dec