

Transition Black Isle Meeting - 7th May 2009

Date: Thursday 7th May 2009 at Glachbeg Croft.

Present: Agric, Bob Bull, Helen Bull, Maggie Dove, Penny Edwards, Erica Mayhew, Ken Naismith, Wendy Price, Catriona Ross, Chris Scatchard, Shona Scatchard, Anne Thomas, Paul Tree, Sue Varley

- 1) The meeting appointed Wendy Price to chair the meeting and Sue Varley to take the minutes.
- 2) Apologies for absence were received from Mary Bowen, Hugh Collins, Craig Fraser, Vanessa Halhead, Anita Murray, Martin Sherring, John Wood.
- 3) There were two corrections to the minutes of the last meeting: John Wood set up the website; Anita Murray designed the logo but Wendy Price provided the words for the leaflet.
- 4) Reports from the groups.
 - 4.1) Admin Group – Penny Edwards, Wendy Price, Sue Varley
 - 4.1.1) Constitution. A draft constitution based on the constitution for Transition Town Falmouth has been put onto the forum for discussion. The general impression is that it is too complicated, and the group needs to decide what kind of organisation it wants to be. Options include limited company, charity, social enterprise, unincorporated association. The admin group are to look into this more closely, produce a new draft and put it on the forum for discussion. There will be a meeting specifically to discuss the constitution on Thursday 28th May at 7.30 at Glachbeg.
 - 4.1.2) Bank Account. Penny Edwards has completed the application form for an account with the Co-operative Bank, as agreed at the last meeting. If the group does not have a full constitution, then a covering letter including the aims and objectives of the organisation are needed. The meeting accepted the Aims and Objectives from the Draft Constitution as being acceptable. It will be useful to be able to operate internet banking so Penny suggested small amounts could be signed off by one person, larger amounts would need two signatures. Discussion about the value of “small” led to the meeting accepting values up to £50 can be signed off by one person. Ken Naismith proposed that Wendy Price be appointed interim convenor, Sue Varley be appointed interim secretary, Penny Edwards be appointed interim treasurer and John Wood be an additional signatory. Helen Bull seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. All four will stand down at the first AGM, when elections will be held for all posts that the group has identified.
 - 4.2) Energy Group – Anne Thomas

Anne had posted a report to the forum, which she summarised for the meeting.

 - 4.2.1) Several people are already collecting chip fat for processing, so there may be limited supplies. A scheme is running in Forres, Anne will make contact them for practical advice. Agric advised that each partner in a scheme is allowed a yearly mileage allowance before fuel tax becomes payable.
 - 4.2.2) Members have a variety of different types of renewable energy, and some would be prepared to be involved in open days where people could see these. It was suggested that

equipment suppliers should be approached to see if they could send someone along to provide cost/benefit product information etc.

4.2.3) There is sufficient interest within TBI, combined with Inverness, to hold Changeworks training on energy saving in the home, grants available etc. Anne is to try and arrange this for the afternoon of Friday 29th May, details to be mailed to the forum.

4.2.4) TBI combined with Inverness have enough people interested to make a local training session on retrofitting your home viable, however no date has been set yet. Anne is in contact with the trainers.

Anne will liaise with the other energy group members to arrange the next meeting.

4.3) Raising Awareness – Maggie Dove, Erica Mayhew, Catriona Ross

Work has progressed well on the new leaflet, there is some finalising to be done before it is ready to print. Meeting decided to put a contact form on the back of the leaflet if people want to join or to find out more about TBI. TBI needs its own e-mail domain name which can be used as a short alias for the website, and for contact e-mail addresses to go on the leaflet. Hugh Collins is to find some suitable available possibilities and post them on the forum.

4.4) Food – Agric

4.4.1) Food group is working on getting TBI posters on all the notice boards on the Black Isle, to raise awareness of the community garden projects and try and recruit more people to join in. The generic TBI leaflet should be displayed for a couple of weeks beforehand, so people will know that TBI is about more than the gardening projects.

4.4.2) TBI should put together a list of food producers in the Black Isle, to be held on the website and possibly displayed in the farm shop in Fortrose.

4.4.3) Chris Scatchard reported on the Highland Seedbank Project. Forres are running a scheme, Alness will run one next year, BBC are interviewing Chris about the project next week. Chris advises offering talks to villages to try and get other local seedbank projects going. Freezing the seed produced is necessary to gain a sufficient supply of seeds at least in the early years when not enough seeds are being produced to feed the Highlands. Freezing may not be necessary when enough people are taking part.

5) Web development.

As time was running short, this item was restricted to noting that the Alness website looks good and the Raising Awareness group have been asked to find out where Alness gained their funding for the website and to see if TBI might be able to approach the same source.

6) Funding – Climate Challenge fund

The next funding application deadline is 3rd June so any group that has a possible funding need is encouraged to put together an application. Money for trees for autumn planting must be applied for by 31st May. To apply, an overview of the project is needed, there must be a provable carbon reduction. Guidance is provided on completing the application. Any grant is for 100% of the cost of the project.

7) Future Events

7.1) There is one place left on the Sustainable Communities training course.

7.2) TBI is to link up with Transition Inverness and Friends of the Earth to have a stand at the Federation of Small Businesses event on 6th June. FoE will take the stand as they have Public Liability insurance. The FoE table cloth will be used, leaflets and

posters will be needed. Sue Varley has the posters Chris Scatchard did for Age of Stupid.
We can sell books. We will need to ask for volunteers to be on the stand.

7.3) Black Isle Ward Forum – Climate Change 11th June.

To be held at Culbokie Primary School. There will be talks, workshops and feedback opportunities. Wendy Price will offer TBI to do a 5-10 minute talk on Transition, the forum will decide on a speaker.

7.4) Transition training is available at Forres on 4th and 5th July – no-one committed to attending.

7.5) TBI declined to organise a marquee and various stands at the Living Food at Cawdor event.

7.6) 2 people were interested in the Permaculture training, Transition Inverness are agreeing a date next week. There will be a 2 day event at Forres on the new allotments.

8) There was no other business.

9) Dates for future meetings.

The new draft of the constitution will be mailed to the forum indicating that anyone not attending the meeting for agreeing the constitution will be deemed to accept it unless they send comments to a member of the Admin group. The constitution meeting is on Thursday 28th May at 7.30 pm at Glachbeg.

Future general meetings will be on Thursday 4th June 7.30 pm; Saturday 27th June 2.30 pm; and Thursday 16th July 7.30 pm, all at Glachbeg.

Saturday afternoon 20th June will be a joint social event with Friends of the Earth.

Cromarty Boat Fair is on 25th July, this is another opportunity for TBI to have a stall.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.