



Sustainable Dawlish AGM 18th May 2023 Minutes

The meeting was attended by Carolyn Ballard (CB), David Bailey (DB), Rosie Dawson(RD), Dave Hutton (DH), Laura Mattison (LM) and Ian Shields(IS).

Apologies were received from Sue Brader, Alison Foden, Lynne Nichols and Gary Taylor.

Minutes of the AGM held on the 18th November 2021 were agreed and accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings.

1. Chairperson's report by Carolyn Ballard.

CB was asked by RD what she felt had been the highlight of the period described in her report and CB said that the Energy Saving forum held in March 2022 at the Strand centre had been a timely and much needed resource for many, particularly vulnerable people, at a time when the cost of energy was skyrocketing. The forum also resulted in the establishment of a regular biweekly surgery where local people could seek advice from Exeter Community Energy.

Although CB felt that the Clothes swap event held in April 2023 had been poorly supported, nevertheless 90 or so items of clothing did change hands. CB is keen to hold another event for the Autumn/ Winter season perhaps in the Strand centre and will liaise with the Children's Clothes Swap organisers at St. Gregory's in the meantime.

RD offered to support a grant from Sustainable Dawlish to the Town Council so that the next Clothes Swap can take place, as the Event helps others in Dawlish.

Terracycle and its disparate nature was discussed. LM suggested the creation of a community hub to help with recycling of less mainstream items such as razor blades. Rosie mentioned that there had been an idea to create such a hub for recycling various types of light bulbs but that it had just proved to be too expensive. Councillor Foden had also put together a list of some of the less obvious recyclable items.

RD and CB agreed that Gatehouse school recycles pens.

RD pointed out that Community skips had run successfully in the past but had relied too heavily on funding from the Town Council. It was also felt that transport of unwanted goods to the Newton Abbot Recycling Centre is a better option.

2. Treasurers Report, IS.

Copies of the accounts were made available to those present.

IS pointed out that the accounts were in a healthy state and that financing this year's Walking Festival, the principal annual financial commitment of Sustainable Dawlish, would be easily funded.

RD pointed out that her company might well be able to lend us a gazebo for events in the future as she noticed a hire fee in the accounts and that her gazebo is only used a few times per year.

3. Election of Officers.

Although CB felt she had been chair for long enough (since 2011) she agreed to continue in the role for another year as did Ian as treasurer.

It was assumed that SB though unable to be present this evening would be prepared to continue as Secretary.

4. Changes to Constitution.

CB has been looking into various sources of future funding and as a result feels that a review of our constitution would be appropriate. Specifically:

Formal change of name

A review of our aims. We were setup in 2011 when priorities may have been different.

A further look at our 'wind up' clause, should Sustainable Dawlish cease to be.

We will look at this at our next meeting on the 22nd June.

DH asked if we had Safeguarding and Equalities policies in place, which we were able to confirm was the case.

5. Event Planning 2023-2024.

We will be making seed bombs at the Turn of The Tide event on May 29th.

These will then be scattered during one or more of the walking festival walks in September.

Permissions have been sought from Teignbridge District Council and Angie Weatherhead is obtaining Devon County permission for planting at Oakhill path. (It is agreed in principle but a survey is required as the next step).

The Walking Festival will run from 9th to 17th September. It is hoped to do more online promotion this year to cut printing costs down, Angie Weatherhead helps with Walking Festival publicity on Social Media LM would be interested in creating a Facebook page for Sustainable Dawlish to help publicise events. She will liaise with CB and SB.

As mentioned earlier CB is keen to run another clothes swap in the Autumn, after the Walking Festival has taken place.

RD suggested a toy swap at the next Clothes Swap event. Promotion of the event could be coordinated with St Greg's and the Strand centre.

Farmers Market.

DB has worked assiduously for some time on bringing a farmers market to Dawlish and Friday 16th June has been chosen as the first one.

It will take place indoors at the Strand Centre.

Rosie suggested the Cool Carrot (Jane, 07454364993) might be worth contacting, they are a local veg box scheme based in Exeter.

Riverford will be at the market promoting their box scheme etc.

AOB

DB suggested that he could perform some music as a fundraiser. IS welcomed this and suggested the group thought about what type of event would be appropriate.

David also said he would be happy to donate some of the proceeds of his CD sales from his forthcoming performance at the Turn the Tide Festival, to the Mayoral charities, RD being the new Mayor welcomed this. Charities she has chosen are Devon Air ambulance, Dawlish Museum and Dawlish Library

RD suggested that the Dawlish waterfowl warden might be persuaded to lead a walk as part of the Walking Festival with tots walking up the Brook. She would endeavour to speak with him, on our behalf.

RD spoke of the Forest school teacher at Gatehouse who might be persuaded to lead a walk, again primarily focussed on the younger members of our community.

The meeting closed at 20.30