

BEDFORDSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

Annual General Meeting, 2 April 2008 Friends' Meeting House, 5 Lansdowne Road, Bedford, 7.00 pm

- 1 A register of attendance was taken. Apologies were received from Sheila Holderness, Sandra Einon, Alison Graham, Brad Hook, David Green, Paula Judd, Kate Kinns, Andy Blowers, Grace Crookall-Greening, Lynda Aylett-Green.
- 2 Minutes of 2007 AGM – were agreed as an accurate record.
- 3 Mattes arising – there were none.
- 4 **Chair's Report (previously circulated and attached)** Tony Mitchell presented a full report which showed an extremely busy year, and welcomed questions. John Crookall-Greening asked how the Zero Carbon Castle Group project was going and Dee Dell reported on the coming launch of their movement on Sunday 20 April, with road closures and various stalls displaying in the ENT Shed, with sponsorship from the Co-op of cotton shopping bags. It was hoped a "Prius" Hybrid car would be on display and that the BCCF would be involved with a stall. Chair welcomed ideas for this event. Secondly, JC-G asked about the Priory Park Centre project. The new Climate Change officer from Bedford Borough, Claire Harris, is seeking to install renewable energy and insulation facilities at the Centre, and sources of advice for the public. It is hoped meetings might also be held there. BCCF members have written to support this. Thanks were expressed for the work of the Chair and Treasurer at this point.
- 5 **Secretary** – as Chair had acted as secretary since September, he suggested this was covered under his report.
- 6 **Treasurer – (Copy of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 attached)** Hazel Mitchell presented the audited accounts which showed a closing balance of £162.61 from a bank balance of £92.34 and cash in hand of £70.27. A further sum of £150 would shortly be received which was the returned deposit from Stewartby Village Hall. The report was accepted by the meeting.
- 7 **Motions.**
 - a. **To amend the Terms of Reference as follows:**
 - i. In AIMS 2.2. add after "Bedfordshire" the phrase "and Luton".
 - ii. In 4.3 remove "(or in the case of the local authorities, two)". Also remove "Steering Group and .."
 - iii. In 4.4. remove "to the Steering Group .. " Remove "Steering Group" after "Forum". Add "upon receipt of a completed membership form" after "Executive".
 - iv. In 5.1 remove "Steering Group"
 - v. In 5.3 replace "Steering Group" with "Forum".
 - vi. In 6.2 replace the first "steering group" with "Forum". Replace the second "steering group" with "their".
 - vii. In 7.2 replace "Steering Group" with "Forum".
 - viii. In 7.3 replace "Steering Group" with "Forum".

Proposed by the Executive to simplify and create transparency. The Forum will be the main decision-making body. It would be open for all members to attend, speak and vote. Secondly, the Executive would handle matters between meetings and be accountable to the Forum. Public meetings are the third element.

Seconded and agreed by the meeting.

- b. **Amendment to Terms of Reference:** Paragraph 6.4 to read "At the same meeting and for the same period of time the Forum shall elect up to 5 more members, at least 3 of whom should

be from the wider non-affiliate membership. IN ADDITION, EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY WILL BE ENTITLED TO NOMINATE ONE REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THESE, WITH THE FORUM'S OFFICERS, WILL COMPRISE an Executive Committee to carry out the decisions of the FORUM, OVERSEE ITS BUSINESS between meetings, TAKE URGENT DECISIONS AND ACT ON THEM and report back to the FORUM on its activities”.

Paragraph 6.5 to read “The quorum for an Executive meeting shall be 5 OF ITS members, two of whom must be officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary OR Treasurer)”.

Proposed by the Executive, seconded and agreed by the meeting.

TM moved this as a clarification particularly of Local Authority representation.

- c. Change of name of bank account to Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum, currently Bedford Renewable Energy Forum,** proposed by Treasurer, seconded Cathy Moorhouse and agreed by the meeting.

8 Election of Officers and Executive:

Chair – Tony Mitchell – proposed D Dell, seconded and agreed.

Vice-Chair – Joel Carre – proposed John Crookall-Greening, seconded Hazel Mitchell and agreed.

Treasurer – Peter Tyldesley – proposed H Mitchell, seconded and agreed.

Also agreed – John Crookall-Greening, Lynda Aylett-Green and Andy Blowers to remain on the Executive as elected non-affiliate members.

One vacancy for affiliate members – no nomination at this point.

Brad Hook as affiliate member – agreed.

Nominated Local Authority affiliate members – Steve Tomlin of Bedford Borough Council, and Nick Costin of South Beds District Council.

It was agreed the Chair would approach the following people to complete LA representation - Sandra Einon of Mid-Beds DC, Obafemi Okusipe of Luton Authority, and Paula Judd of Beds County Council.

- 9 Appointment of Secretary: Hazel Mitchell was proposed by Peter Tyldesley, seconded D Dell, and agreed by the meeting.

10 Any other business:

- a.** Membership report from Lynda Aylett-Green stated 52 signed up members, with 20 affiliate member groups. It was suggested names of people who have not replied to recent approaches should be deleted. D Dell felt there was a need to be active in recruiting and that numbers did matter. Could businesses and schools be contacted? Executive were asked to consider this and report. The meeting accepted the report and thanks were expressed for Lynda Aylett-Green's efforts.
- b.** Climate change Bill Week of Action – T Mitchell mentioned the lobby on Friday 4 April of Patrick Hall MP; 5.30 pm briefing at St Peter de Merton Church, to meet P Hall at 6.pm, organised by Christian Aid.
- c.** Saturday 5 April – Friends of the Earth are organising a stall in Bedford town centre concerning protest against Luton Airport expansion. 10.00 – 12 noon outside Boots.

The formal meeting ended at 7.30 pm, and was followed by speakers Ian Rowlands from the International section of the RSPB on their restorative work on deforestation in Sumatra, and Hannah Thorogood-Bos on Permaculture and “Raised Beds” which is the local group for this national organisation of self-sufficiency. The speakers were much appreciated and warmly thanked for their valued contribution by the Chair.

The Chair appealed for volunteers to help staff our stall on 20 April (Zero Carbon Castle Day) and 24 April, (Bedford College Day) as well as ideas for our display.