

## AGM Minutes from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

**Apologies:** Milly Chen, Amanda Stibrany.

**Present:** Tony Bovey, Eleanor Chance, Sarah Couch, Lucy Dickinson, Hywel Edwards, Ros Kent, Helena Nielsen, Sue Raikes, Angie Titchen.

Plus six members of the public.

**Minutes of the last AGM:** - these were agreed as correct.

**Matters arising:** None.

**Chair's Report:** Tony started by thanking individual members for their hard work and commitment over the year. He then gave an overview of GreenTEA's progress by using a SWOT analysis. The group's strengths lay mainly in its people -their energy, commitment and 'brilliance'. But a weakness lay in the fact that there was too much work done by too few people. The other main weakness identified was an inability to 'cut through' to a wider audience despite the current fuel and cost of living crisis.

There were, however, several opportunities provided by GreenTEA's links with wider groups such as NRN, EPIC, Peace Oak, XR and EPC. Climate and biodiversity were increasingly being seen as a threat by the public and a recent poll found 17% of the population placed the environment as one of their three main concerns.

The threats faced by GreenTEA were identified as the government failing to reach its carbon reduction targets; lack of public engagement and evidence of an increasing backlash against the cost and feasibility of net zero targets.

In summary the Chair pointed out that research indicated that attitude and action change was not based on factual information or rational thinking and so GreenTEA needed to learn how to connect with people's emotions, beliefs and values. He ended with a quote from Gramsci "Pessimism of the intellect. Optimism of the will."

**Treasurer's Report:** Hywel explained that the accounts include restricted funds from the repair café, First and last Mile and Low Carbon Hub. Sue asked if GreenTEA had now received money from the solar installation at Twelve Acre Farm. Apparently not as they are still waiting for a connection to the national Grid.

## **Secretary's Report:**

After pointing out that seven of the twelve members of the core group were in the founding group, the secretary remarked on how far GreenTEA had come from calculating individual carbon foot prints to analysing the energy needs of a whole community.

Ros was thanked for continuing to compile the monthly Brew and restarting monthly information sessions in The Cherry Tree. Lucy was thanked for her IT skills and maintaining the GreenTEA website which provides a wealth of useful information and is also kept very much up-to-date.

Lucy has also been doing sterling work with the secondary school and the whole Eynsham Partnership Academy. All eight schools have now had a carbon reduction report and Lucy continues to stress the importance of climate change and biodiversity as part of the school curriculum. Last autumn GreenTEA donated £100 to buy books for the new library on these subjects.

Lucy has also been responsible for organizing and completing thermal imaging reports throughout the winter and for conducting water pollution tests.

In September GreenTEA's contribution to the national Great Big Green Week was considerably scaled back with a single meeting in St Leonard's Hall and a focus on energy. The apple festival was cancelled due to the long drought although surprisingly it turned out to be a great year for apples.

Last year saw the reintroduction of swap shops which proved as popular as ever. Six discussion groups were held throughout the year.

GreenTEA continued to respond to consultations both as a group and as individual citizens. This was particularly important following the disappointing Planning Inspectors report on the Area Action Plan and Salt Cross. Pressure from GreenTEA members influenced the decision of the national organisation Rights: Community: Action (RCA) to issue 'a High Court legal challenge to the decision to water down the net zero ambitions of West Oxfordshire District Council in its plan for Salt Cross Garden Village.'

On April 26<sup>th</sup> at a meeting promoting the Smart and Fair Futures project GreenTEA j and in particular Sarah Couch, Amanda Stibrany, Tony Bovey and Luck Dickinson were praised by Low Carbon Hub for sharing their expertise and all their hard work.

The last year has seen many improvements relating to transport, several of which are due to the commitment and perseverance of GreenTEA members. First and Last Mile were awarded a grant of £2585.60 by Transition Together brokered by GreenTEA and the community transport group have recently celebrated a successful first year. The Hiya car set up by Sue has now been joined by an electric CoWheels vehicle based in the Eynsham car park at one of the 12 electric charging points. And a 20 mile an hour speed limit in the village was been implemented largely thanks to the persistence of Tricia.

We have Milly to thank for initiating a new venture this year. A project to encourage people to move towards a wholesome, mainly plant based diet. This has involved free tasting sessions in the Cherry Tree Café and the compilation of a series of fact sheets.

The secretary finished with a huge thank you to all GreenTEA members for all the hard work carried out over the year.

### **Election of Officers**

	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Tony Bovey	Ros Kent	Sarah Couch
Treasure	Hywel Edwards	Tony Bovey	Sue Raikes
Secretary	Helena Nielsen	Tony Bovey	Ros Kent

**AOB:** Sue asked if anyone had any ideas on how to promote the Hiya car scheme. And if so, please could they speak to her.

**Date of next AGM:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to be confirmed.