

Bealings Environmental Group Inaugural Meeting 22/5/08 8.30pm

Minutes

Present: Jenny Cavell Shaw
Frances Green, Grundisburgh Environmental Group
Tabitha Jones
Pat Keep
John Lynch
Jasmine Murphy
Penny Newman
Malcolm Watson

Apologies: Eric Barnett
Duncan Bathgate
Anna Beaumont
Vicki and Peter Carr
Sarah Cartwright
Zoe Firebrace
Polly Hester
Julian Heywood-Smith
Sally Johnson
Harriet McEwen
Sadi Sargood
Jenny Shaw

Introduction:

Tabitha Jones introduced the reasons why the group had been brought together, (following on from John Midwinter's lectures on Climate Change), the purpose of the group – to try and work towards becoming more environmentally friendly as a village and what in particular the group might want to do, such as a carbon footprint of the village, insulation, recycling etc. She also talked a little about the various funding organisations who offer grants.

Wind generator for the village:

John Midwinter raised this as a possibility during his lectures and has some idea of costings and feasibility. Would this be something that the village would consider?

Funding:

There is a need to ascertain what funding is available from the different organisations offering grants both on an individual and village level. Also, some of the grants available from different funding bodies might be coming from the same pot. It would be helpful if someone had time to look into this.

Frances Green, from the Grundisburgh Environment Group:

Frances was invited to come and talk about what the group in Grundisburgh has done so far. They are information providers not campaigners, eg. recycling info, (insert in Grundisburgh News), circulating info on insulation and the availability of grants. Frances also talked about the Green Squirrel

Initiative: money goes to the Parish Council for every household who install insulation. (The village needs to register and gain a code.) These are the main areas they have concentrated on so far.

She will send further info of the constitution of their group: committee consists of 7 people.

Wind Turbine:

More discussion followed about the possibility of a wind turbine for Bealings: the siting/location, shareholder funding etc. Pat Keep felt there was a need to gain villagers' trust first and so need to work on smaller projects first and build up to this.

Funding organisations were discussed further – those aimed at individuals, the public sector the community as a whole. It was felt that it would be better to decide on a project for Bealings first, and then research the funding possibilities, rather than vice versa.

Household Waste:

Frances talked about the visit by the Grundisburgh group to the Great Blakenham household waste sorting plant – all waste is hand sorted and then sent for recycling within Britain. Further discussion about a need for an information sheet for villagers as to what recycling should go in what bin particularly before the new recycling bins get up and running soon. Daniel Waring at Suffolk Coastal District Council will assist in recycling news. There is a lot of information about recycling on the Grundisburgh group website at: www.green-grundisburgh.org.uk. There is a list of organisations that will take and recycle things not collected by the council.

Co-operative:

The idea of a village shop was discussed.

Village Hall refurbishment:

This was discussed with regard to suggesting that refurbishment should be environmentally friendly – ie. if the car park is being dug up, a ground source heat pump could perhaps be installed to provide power for the village hall; also, the possibility of solar panels on the roof. There might be grants available for this. Insulation for the village hall was also discussed.

Parish Plan:

Should be independent of the Parish Council. There is a questionnaire to be sent out soon to all villagers to ascertain the directions in which everyone wants the village to progress.

List of sample suggestions for Bealings Enviro Group:

Bulk purchase of rain diverters for the village or water butts.

Village freecycle – bike, toys, clothes swap.

Invite John Midwinter to come and talk to the group.

Green event – to spread awareness about the group and get the interest of more villagers - bike and other items swap, spreading of information about green issues, picnic/BBQ, kids events.

Areas of Interest:

There is a need to identify areas of interest for the group and develop a focus towards particular issues. To do this, everyone present was asked to write down the things that they were most interested in pursuing and it was suggested that the people unable to come to the meeting should do the same. It will probably take a little while to work out exactly what it is that people want to do with the group.

Discussion about the other local groups and pooling information. Frances said we could have a web link to the Grundisburgh site. There is no point in duplicating research and information.

Jenny (Cavell) Shaw will put a notice in the Benefice Newsletter about the meeting tonight and the next meeting, which will be held in the Angela Cobbold Hall.

Apologies I had to do this very fast without consultation to get it into the newsletter in time as it had already gone for formatting JCS