

Meeting Minutes: Congleton Sustainability Group

Date: 14th May 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Zoom

In attendance: Heather Seddon (Chair), Cathy Dean, Jackie Kay, Ruth Benson, Patti Pinto, Peter Aston.

Apologies: Linda Aston, Peter Hall, Kay Wesley, Margaret Gartside.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th June 2024 via Old Saw Mill, 6:30 pm
Spotlight topic: AGM followed by Normal Meeting.

1	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes from 5 March 24 are accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting:</p> <p>Update – 5 Local schools have achieved eco-school status, which was mentioned in the Congleton In Bloom results. The certification used to be free but now costs £200, in 2013 all nine schools achieved the award but this extra monetary burden might discourage schools from submitting again.</p> <p>Patti is working with Laura (Liaison Officer with ANSA) and the waste Reduction volunteers who will visit schools (and other premises) and run sessions. All schools have Laura's contact details.</p> <p>Create a mini-eco conference for schools.</p> <p>Could we get business sponsors for the Green Flag certification? Schools can complete the qualification without paying the fee, and could CTC issue an award? (Ongoing)</p> <p><u>Transition Town</u></p> <p>CSG was previously connected with the Transition Network (https://transitionnetwork.org/) and still has a profile on the website (https://transitiongroups.org/group/congleton-sustainability-group/).</p> <p>The profile needs to be updated or removed. Heather to email.</p>																		
2	<p><u>Financial Update</u></p> <p>Thanks to Linda for sending in the accounts before the meeting; please see attached the accounts.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">CSG Income & Expenditure 1st April 2024</th> <th style="text-align: right;">BANK</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Current</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Deposit</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Account</th> <th style="text-align: right;">account</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">£</th> <th style="text-align: right;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">opening balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,284.69</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8,899.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CSG Income & Expenditure 1st April 2024	BANK			Current	Deposit		Account	account		£	£	opening balance	6,284.69	8,899.74	Income		
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6 **Communications**

Repair Café going from strength to strength, letter to remind people about the café and what can be repaired. (HS)

7 **A.O.B**

PA – Still looking for land for a community farm. Around 8 acres of land are required. Talk to local landowners.

Library of Things – be great to get something like this off the ground, needs storage so a community farm would be perfect! Next project?

Cost of Living Grant Update:

Cheshire East has now confirmed the new proposal and what we can spend. It does leave a shortfall of £4139 which will be returned.

New grant proposal as discussed. This project will:-

- Continue to develop the Hilary Avenue site
- Grow edible produce on the site
- Deliver cookery sessions using produce from the site along with additional ingredients to create value for money, healthy meals

You will need to demonstrate how those in need are the ones benefitting and how this has helped them alleviate some of the pressure of COL, ie through free food provision from the site or through sessions along with education of how to cook healthy value for money meals going forward.

New Proposal	
Shed	£950
Tools (hand tools)	£1,000
Cookery session set up x 3	£1601 10 sessions – an increase of 7
Hilary Avenue plot	£1,000 (£762.72 already spent)
Plants – edible hedge, herb garden & fruit trees	£890
Total	£5441.00

The next meeting date 4th June will also be the AGM. 6:30 pm at the Old Saw Mill.

CSG Subgroups:

CSG Members		Subgroup	Facebook Page
Peter Aston	peterjaston@gmail.com	The Old Saw Mill, Dane Valley Community Energy	Congleton Hydro
Heather Seddon	heather.seddon2@btinternet.com	Plastic Free Congleton	Plastic Free Congleton
Patti Pinto	Pattipinto1@gmail.com	Eco-schools, In Bloom, Trees For Congleton, Food4Free	In Bloom
Margaret Gartside	cllrmargaret.gartside@congleton-tc.gov.uk	In Bloom, Trees for Congleton	
Barry Fox	gbarryfox@gmail.com	Green Living Course	Green Living Course
Alec / Val Scaresbrook	cycling@cheshirecycleway.co.uk	Congleton Food4Free	Congleton Food4Free
Ruth Benson	benson1ruth@gmail.com	Trees For Congleton	Trees For Congleton
Peter Ranson	peterjranson@btinternet.com	Old Saw Mill	Old Saw Mill

Useful Groups:

CSG Members		Group	Facebook Page
Jackie Kay	Jackiekay28@hotmail.co.uk	Climate Action Group	Climate Action
Adam Linnet	alinnnet@cheshirewt.org.uk	Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Matt Axford	ASTBURY@cheshireeast.gov.uk	Countryside Ranger (Astbury Mere)	Astbury Mere

New members

There is a short membership form for new members, to be completed once. Members receive e-mails from the Group and having voting rights at the AGM. Please send your membership form to our secretary, Cathy Dean, Cathy.Dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk.



CSG Membership
Application Form App