

**Minutes of the LLES LTD Board meeting
Wednesday 14th January 2009**

Present:- Gwen Prince, Graham Brand, Kevin Carey, Diana Berriman, Andrew Capel, Nick Venti, Tony Shaw, Michelle Boudin, David Green

Apologies for absence: None

Minutes of last meeting accepted.

Graham informed the Board that the Minutes should be signed and dated by the Chair and should be filed (Michelle's responsibility).

Action Andrew It was agreed that the minutes should be resent a few days prior to the Board meeting.

Actions from last meeting

Date	Actionee	Action/Update	Status
10/12/08	Graham	<u>to send out a copy of financial statement by email. 14/1/09 Budget sent to directors</u>	Closed
10/12/08	Andrew	<u>to take list of Gwen's duties to members to find volunteers</u> 14/1/09 Andrew has list of duties and is tying up people from the skills audit.	Ongoing
10/12/08	Nick	<u>to change registered address of LLES from Gwen to TBD.</u> 14/1/09 It was agreed to use the Resource Centre as the registered office but the RC directors should be consulted and their approval sought first.	Ongoing
10/12/08	Nick Andrew	<u>to change email address (office@lles) which is currently being forwarded to Gwen to Andrew</u>	Closed
10/12/08	Andrew	<u>to get a copy of Mem & Articles to confirm 5 board members is enough for a quorum.</u> 14/1/09 Andrew reported that only 4 members are required for a quorum but that the Committee should have a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and 5 other elected members. Raises issue about the difference between the Committee and Board which needs to be clarified	Ongoing
10/12/08	Kevin	<u>to look into the possibility of hiring an Infra-red camera.</u> 14/1/09 Cheshire group cannot loan their camera outside Cheshire. It's in constant use but Tanya Sayer invited Kevin to see it being used in April. Marches group rents theirs out for £25 a day. They give training. Insurance need to be looked into as it's worth £3000.	Ongoing
10/12/08	Diana Graham	<u>to look at how the new grant would affect Diana as there is now more grant (ie hours) per week.</u> 14/1/09 Meeting arranged	Ongoing
10/12/08	Gwen	<u>contact Dave Green again with regard the Lightfoot Project .</u> 14/1/09 Talk from Dave arranged later tonight.	Closed
10/12/08	Diana	<u>to ask SWALEC to donate some smart meters.</u> 14/1/09 It has to go to regional manager, they are keen but haven't got back yet.	Ongoing
10/12/08	Nick	To talk to local estate agents about energy surveys for selling homes and rental properties with a view to a business plan/proposition for a member to become qualified to perform the surveys in Llani. This would not conflict with the aims of the charity as it would be considered Primary Trading.	To do
10/12/08	Diana	to contact previous open house participants to see if they are willing again. Also contact the people in Abermule with the heat source pump installation and find out if Graham Jones' new installation will be up and running by then.	Ongoing
10/12/08	Gwen	a local sustainability group has one and she will find out who it was	?
10/12/08	Gwen	<u>LLES Public Meeting:- Arrange George Monbiot and/or Jay Griffiths to give talk in Feb.</u> 14/1/09 George Monbiot scheduled to give talk Feb 5th	Closed

Matters arising

Action Andrew Chairs Report, Treasurers Report, Open House Day, 2020 should be added to the agenda.

Dave Green of Lightfoot

The Chair welcomed Dave to give an overview of the Lightfoot project in Bishops Castle.

Dave holds a City and Guilds certificate in Energy Assessment and is a qualified household Energy Performance assessor. Lightfoot has done 330 surveys in the Bishops Castle area and about 600 in total. Knighton, Presteigne and

Newtown joined the group in 2008 and Rhayader is in the process of joining. They employ local coordinators 2 days a week. Volunteers do paper surveys which are sent to the local office for the full report to be prepared which has 30 pages but only relevant are sent to householder and volunteer who then does a phone follow up. Householders also receive 2 newsletters a year. Volunteers are organised via Yahoo groups. The energy surveys cost £100 each. Donations from the householder is requested (£10) but the rest comes through funding which each group has to find in order to pay to Lightfoot to cover admin costs. Some re-surveys have already been done with one person showing a 30% reduction and another 86% if they included flights. Didn't say how many resurveys had been done.

Lightfoot has funding from Environment Wales, Waterloo Foundation and have been chosen as part of the Big Green Challenge (BGC). They did 140 surveys in the last quarter and are aiming for 40% coverage of Bishops Castle for the BGC. Taster sessions run all over Britain. On Feb 6th an introduction to their surveys is being run in Rhayader and the 3 communities (Llani, Rhayader, Talgarth) have been invited. Gwen and Kevin expressed an interest in attending and other LLES members will be invited.

Mar 14th is the full training session which will cost £500 per group. LLES has Glasu funding for this.

Discussion followed but raised more questions than answers.

Generally felt that £100 was a lot of money to get from funding - Utility Companies suggested?

Could LLES get a copy of the 30 page report template and follow up questionnaire for LLES' own use?

How to expand the 20% coverage in Llani? Street by street suggested.

If we join Lightfoot what to do with Llani surveys already done by LLES?

Finding volunteers to do new surveys – from skills audit?

Action Diana to send email to all LLES members asking for volunteer to do training Feb 6th, Mar 14th with a view to conducting paper surveys

Report on LCCP

Nick reported from the Low Carbon Community Project Steering Group meeting. Aims of the group:- set standards and targets to lower carbon footprint in the community, understand the aims of the project, sharing of knowledge and experience. Carbon emission targets need to be set within the next 2 years which requires quantitative data. Next meeting is scheduled for May.

Action Nick to contact Andy Roland in Aber about using their infra-red camera.

Kevin reported that a Twylch, mill owning resident had approached him about LLES installing a hydro-scheme on their mill as part of the LCCP project. Several issues arose – it's on private land so ground rent to owner and lack of public access, the need to update deeds, small scheme less than 3KW, possibility to sell back to Grid? Good project for volunteers though.

Tony brought up Y Fan Pool which 25 years ago was considered for various “off the wall” projects. Now council owned (Llanidloes Without). Might be possible site for hydro project – high volume, low head.

Action Diana to contact Richard to look at Y Fan Pool site.

How about other old hydro sites around Llani – could LLES re-establish old weirs?

Budget/Finances (Treasurers Report)

Budget emailed to directors. No change to accounts from last month. SWEA grant still needs to be resolved with Diana – an ongoing action item.

Action Diana To confirm if capital from SWEA should be deferred till next financial year.

Need more grant funding as £12K donation will be gone by end of financial year (Aug 09) and LLES is a year away from running out of money. Need match funding and funding for capital costs. No applications pending. Diana did locate a fund offering up to 25K but no details to hand.

Action Nick. Offered to look into various funding options

Last year Green Fair had a £1000 surplus – part of reserves. LLES can cover small incidental costs until Green Festival gets funding.

Members' involvement in Board meetings

Steve put forward the following proposal (in writing):-

That LLES members should be given the right (and are positively encouraged) to address LLES Board meetings on any initiatives, ideas, updates, queries or even complaints that they might have. A 5 minute slot for a short presentation should be sufficient with the option of a written submission available) followed by a discussion at the chair's discretion. Participation (or even presence) at the rest of the meeting could also be at the Chair's discretion.

It was discussed that the current constitution does not forbid members from attending Board meetings. There was no vote was on the proposal but it was agreed that members should be told that they are welcome to attend and could give a 5 minute presentation with the proviso that they gave prior notice to the secretary for his approval due to time constraints.

Action TBD At public meeting (5th Feb) tell members they can attend Board meetings and give a presentation if they got prior approval.

Powys Eisteddfod 2010

Steve provided the Board with the following possible advantages for LLES to get involved:-

- Push LLES's main agendas
- Broaden involvement and interaction of LLES
- Use culture and art as a medium for our key issues
- Use Green Fair/festival experience and skills to good effect
- Tap into Eisteddfod funding?

Generally felt that LLES should be involved at some level with the Eisteddfod and it would be useful to have a LLES representative attending meetings.

Action Diana Request LLES member volunteer to attend Eisteddfod meetings as an observer.

Action Nick Approach Paul Jervis about taking on this role.

Green Festival Report

Andrew and Tony gave summary of the vision for GF 2009. Aiming big, lots of events and speakers - big name like Pete Postlethwaite. Plan to put Llani on the map as The Welsh Green Centre (like Hay-On-Wye which is a literary centre), to become event in national consciousness, i.e. attract more outsiders.

Need to talk to other Llani groups like Compton Yard Trust to see what they have planned.

Diana reported that speakers need to be booked by end of Feb and funding sought by April at the latest.

Any Other Business

Open House Day

Needs volunteers. Where to sell books (each house, central location). Funding issue – is it too late to apply for funding from Energy Saving Trust, Environment Wales. However LCCP could fund Open House.

LLES Public Meeting

Gwen has arranged with George Monbiot to give talk on Feb 5th at the Baptist Chapel if possible.

Entrance fee will be £4.00 for adults, £2.00 for concession (decided by majority vote).

Action Tony Contact Baptist Chapel to book room.

Date of next meeting **Wednesday 11th February 2009 at 7.30pm at The Mount Inn**