

# Greater Reading Environmental Network Minutes of Annual General Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## 1. Welcome & minutes of previous meeting

The Chair for the AGM, Tony Cowling, welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were given.

Present:

Michele Atkins  
John Booth  
Peter Chan  
Tony Cowling

Tanja Rebel  
Steve Goodman  
Chris Burden  
Eva Szucs

Apologies:  
Beth Scott  
Oonagh Kelleher  
Rachel Miller

There were 8 GREN members present – the AGM was quorate.  
The minutes of last year's AGM were agreed. There were no matters arising.

## 2. Officers' reports

### Chair

The Annual Report has been posted on the GREN web site  
<http://www.gren.org.uk/Resources.cfm#3>

John Booth ran through the Annual Report 2012-2013:

**GREN membership** had increased by 30 new individual members during the course of the year.

**GREN events** – The format of the GREN member meetings was changed in an effort to promote more networking between the groups.

- Members meeting in March 2013 – presentations on 'The Green Deal', 'Draught Busting', Arctic Melting, and Reading Climate Change Strategy.
- Members meeting in June 2013 – hosted by Earley Environmental Group (EEG) with presentations from EEG, TCV, and Berkshire Local Nature Partnership, and a 'Bat Walk'.
- October 2013 – GREN stall at Reading Town Meal.
- October 2013 – 'GREN members meeting' at Reading Voluntary Action, held jointly with the first Repair Café arranged by Transition Town Reading.

### Engagement, Lobbying and Campaigning

#### Cycle Liaison Group

Michele Atkins attended the Cycle Liaison Group meetings on behalf of GREN.

#### Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP)

John Booth represented GREN on the RCCP Board. The revised Climate Change Strategy was launched in September 2013 with the associated Climate Action Network.

GREN has agreed to be involved as a 'Delivery Partner' for the associate Action Plan.

Through the RCCP GREN has encouraged the Council to fund a study of the potential for a Hydro-electricity project at Reading Weir.

#### Reading Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Tony Cowling and John Booth met with Kim Wilkins of RBC to discuss the opportunities for environmental improvement arising from this document.

**Funding** – this was still a key issue for GREN that the committee had been attempting to address.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Tony gave apologies that he did not have a copy of the report to hand for the meeting but confirmed that the organisation was solvent and committed to publishing the report on the GREN website within a month.

The committee thanked EEG and RVA for providing meeting room space this year and the committee would like to express their gratitude to Loud 'n' Clear for donating the website hosting costs for this year.

### **4. Election of committee & officers**

Treasurer

Previously: Oonagh Kelleher (retiring)

Nominated: Tony Cowling

Elected: **Tony Cowling.**

Secretary

Previously: Michele Atkins (retiring)

Nominated: John Booth

Elected: **John Booth**

Chair

Previously: Vacant

Nominated: Peter Chan

Elected: **Peter Chan**

GREN rep. on Reading Climate Change Partnership

Previously: John Booth

Nominated: John Booth

Elected: **John Booth**

GREN rep on Cycle Forum

Previously: Michele Atkins

Nominated: Peter Chan

Elected: **Peter Chan**

Ordinary Committee members:

Rachel Miller retired

Chris Burden nominated **Tanja Rebel** – elected

John Booth nominated **Tricia Marcouse** of ECONET – elected

### **5. Actions for 2013/14**

Environmental Hustings – European and local elections coming up. Generally agreed to be a good idea. Committee to meet in the New Year to see if it would be possible to take the idea forward.

Michele would like to hold a Love Food, Hate Waste session at a GREN members meeting next year.

John and Chris Burden attended a meeting of Reading Neighbourhood Network on behalf of Reading FoE – agreed that GREN should apply as an affiliate member.

Facebook – active. Rachel Miller happy to Twitter on behalf of GREN – no other volunteers for tweeting came forward.

Peter Chan happy to be an Admin on the Facebook page.

It was agreed that when we are paying for the website hosting costs again, we will ask Loud 'n' Clear to set up the website so when items are posted on Facebook they are automatically posted to the website.

Tony has an ambitious project coming up next year – the Thames Hydro project has grown into the “Reading Sustainability Centre” with the Hydro project providing the power for the Centre. GREN would be a main partner along with RBC and other local organisations.

Peter Chan would like to see an event that facilitates interaction between the member groups and suggested a skill share – learn from each other, e.g. how to do press releases, how to lobby MPs, how to do a street stall, etc.

Tanya would like to see events around Palm Oil.

## **6. Any Other Business**

It was agreed to amend the constitution to show that the AGM is quorate with 6 GREN members present.

## **7. Date Of Next Meeting**

To be arranged by e-mail.

The GREN business was followed by a brief overview by John Booth of the Reading Climate Change Partnership to date and including an introduction to the Reading Climate Action Network.

Lots of discussion followed around the deliverables including transport and air quality and hydrogen fuel cells.

John demonstrated the individual challenges website and urged everyone to take up a challenge.

Tony Cowling ran through his solar quiz quickly which included several surprising answers.

This ended the formal part of the GREN AGM.

John Booth thanked Michele, Rachel and Oonagh for their contribution on the committee.  
(cue massive round of applause)

After a refreshment break, the group reconvened to swap books and home made preserves.

Many thanks to John Booth for bringing an interesting selection of books and for being willing to loan them. Michele borrowed “23 things they don't tell you about Capitalism” from John Booth.

Thanks to everyone that brought along a home-made jam or chutney to swap – hope everyone enjoys what they took home!

Minutes by Michele Atkins (outgoing Secretary)

9<sup>th</sup> December 2013