**WaterCAN Waterside Climate Action Network**

**ADMIN GROUP**

**MINUTES** of Meeting held at The Glen Public House, Butts Ash, Hythe on Monday 16 October 2023 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT Philip Dowd

Helen Capstick

Stephanie Osborne

Mike Smith

Kathy Thornett

APOLOGIES Laura Mulley

**1 TALKS – Feedback**

It was felt that John Trim’s recent talk was just the right length and very positive feedback was reported from those attending. He is a very experienced Speaker (normally charges £80). Mike Bundock’s talk was also well received, smaller numbers, but he has received good feedback and has been helping people who have asked for more information**.** Overall the group is happy with the way the Talks are moving. When inviting a Speaker it is felt important to choose carefully and to know the Speaker’s background, although to bear in mind that not all those attending will have the same viewpoint as the Speaker. However, it is also essential for people to be open minded and learn from the Speakers. Philip felt that at the next full Group meeting perhaps we should raise awareness of this, and advise that contentious issues may be brought up in the Talks but it is important for all members to open minds and learn from others. People often want to take small steps on Climate Issues but can be disheartened if their initial ideas are challenged, although it is felt important to debate issues, even if people have one viewpoint, it is still useful to engineer situations where people can discuss and debate.

**Improvements :**

Raffle - A great idea and one for the future. Brenda Smith organised this.

Refreshments good (particularly at Community Centre) Biscuits baked by Laura Mullet

End of Talk (advise Speakers we need 5 mins at end) Use this time to talk about WaterCAN and encourage people to join us. Draw attention to future events/talks.

**Future Talks:**

Vegetarian/Vegan Life Style (Speaker needed) Suggestion made for a “Pot Luck Evening” for people to bring one item for others to try in a “Tasting Event”.

Other possible Speakers who could be contacted :

Barry Slipper, David Yapp (Hydrogen), Ben Webster (Environmental Journalist ie Open Democracy) Lee Attrill (Surfers Against Sewage)

**Venues:**

Various sized halls available at Hythe Community Centre and they are keen to extend usage. Contacts with that venue are going well.

Need also to look at smaller halls eg WI Hall in Dibden Purlieu

Setting up/Clearing Away…..need to ensure somebody responsible for following the instructions from Venue

**Promotion:**

Currently using “Herald” but also need to look at using other local Facebook Groups ie Waterside Community Group (WCG) (8.2k members); Waterside What’s On etc, WaterCAN Website & our own Facebook page.

**2. HYTHE OF ACTIVITY**

New Parish Development Officer, Paul McDade, had made a suggestion to Philip to combine the Hythe of Activity Day with the Pier Heritage Day but Philip expressed that he was not in favour of this idea as the Pier Group have a single focus, but there are so many differing groups who wish to take part in Hythe of Activity Day.

Admin Members raised the issue of whether “August” was the best month to hold the event due to school closures and so many locals being away on holiday. We are hoping for a change of date.

Many local groups over recent years have actually lost longstanding members, for various reasons, so this “Activity Day” is felt to be a good way of recruiting volunteers. It is felt that some local people are isolated and often keen to find groups of interest and broad appeal.

There is seen to be a demand for young mothers’ meeting groups ie Mum and Toddler Groups and the new Board Game & Children’s Play Café in Hythe is seen as very welcome - early reviews and comments have been good.

It is hoped that next year the “Sustainability” issue will be a strong feature of Hythe of Activity, especially as we are aware that Schools are covering Climate Issues and Recycling now, as part of their Curriculum.

**3** **HYTHE ACTION DAY - SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2 pm – 3pm**

The Group would like to see in next few weeks a “Day of Action” to promote the village of HYTHE as a tourist “Stop Off” , perhaps before the Mistletoe Fayre - seen to be organised by WaterCAN with the aim of tidying up the various areas eg

Weeds

Litter

Decayed wood frontages repaired

Notice Boards updated/repaired

Parish Council Board brought up to date

Signs around the Village reviewed and improved

It can be seen as a chance to chat with local people about WaterCAN ie give out one of our Business Cards, promote and encourage new members.

Philip will look at producing a Leaflet (similar to one given out in DP) telling shop owners/traders about the event and the intentions of the “Action Day”. The date of Sunday 19 Nov, 2-3 pm was agreed.

**4. WEBINAR ON WIND ENERGY - Thursday 19 October 2023 Community Energy South**

Philip expressed the hope that some Members of WaterCAN will be able to attend and report back as Community Energy from Wind is entirely possible for our coastal area. Mike Bundock is signed up to attend, as this would be a good objective for the Group via access to funding for community organizations which is more straight forward. Investment is possible apparently eg East Boldre who have gained funding and investment from local people with solar power on the local store, etc. There was interest expressed in recent times by the people living on Hythe Marina. It has to be remembered that Wind Turbines can be smaller now and are seen to work well in High and Low Wind conditions.

The Group is still hoping to hear more from Roxanne King, NFDC Climate Officer concerning funding sources. It was suggested that Malcolm Wade might also raise this issue with her or others to try to gain more information.

There is also a Community Energy Meeting at Lyndhurst on 3rd November apparently and it is thought that Mike Bundock is also booked on this meeting.

**5**. **WEBSITE**

Helen advised the group that the Website is still effectively “in development”……she tries to do as much as possible, devoting some time on Fridays to this. She is working with Laura and Lucie, meeting up to discuss items for “posting” but is keen to have items also from others.

**Suggestions**

Ensure future Talks by Lucie and Philip are confirmed with venues, titles, dates etc. and as much information as possible. Steph to email both asking for confirmation and contact to advertise.

Information on Hythe Action Day

Local Voices ie Mike Bundock

Herald Articles (not all local people get to see this publication)

Ben Webster articles/interviews (see his Bio+Open Democracy)

Item on Vegetarian/Vegan Food and changes people can make

**6** **AOB**

A good deal of interesting items have been posted by Members to the newly created “What’s App” Group, however, we need to see more use made of our Facebook page and Members will be encouraged to use that Social Media platform to put out items of interest relating to the many “Climate” issues.

Mike Smith mentioned that he has a contact at Southampton Council, the “Green” Councillor and they are considering “trialing” a Citizens’ Assembly. Does WaterCan think this could be a concept of interest on the Waterside?

Philip (Chairman) and others mentioned that that a great deal of praise and thanks should be extended to Philip and John for the invaluable work they have been doing in highlighting Cycling and Road issues in and around the area, in their detailed reports and contacts with the County Council Highways Dept.