**WaterCAN Waterside Climate Action Network**

**ADMIN GROUP**

**MINUTES** of Meeting held via ZOOM **on Monday 11 January 2024.**

PRESENT Philip Dowd

 Helen Capstick

 Stephanie Osborne

 Mike Smith

 Kathy Thornett

Guest Energy Member: Mike Bundock

APOLOGIES Laura Mulley

 Brenda Smith

**1 MINUTES OF LAST ADMIN MEETING held on 16 October, 2023**

The Minutes were approved.

**2. COMMUNICATION**

**Facebook**

Discussion of the various local groups and agreement that some of these groups will not accept any political-style posting…..Philip stressed that WaterCAN is NOT a party political group.

It was felt that the more we share on social media the more the “brand” will be known in the community. Some members were not happy about platforms we’ve chosen to use but we are in early days of sharing. It was felt that once we have held the next lot of Talks and meetings we need to promote more on Facebook Community Groups (apparently there are about 30 in the area!). Some use Waterside Community Group, some Waterside People, both busy sites. Admin Group were encouraged to mention items about WaterCAN on sites we are on or use, and then ‘Share’ and also if we see other items on other sites relating to WaterCAN we should click ‘Like’ as this moves the items ‘Up’.

Helen explained “tagging” and directing items using @ to enlarge our audience ie #SurfersAgainstSewage.

**Website**

Philip felt that looking through the WaterCAN Website  [e-voice.org.uk/watercan](https://e-voice.org.uk/watercan/) we have really made large strides from where we were at this time last year and thanks for this must go to Helen for all her efforts. It is felt to be ‘user friendly’ and Steph is recommending it to new, interested Members

Helen is working hard to keep the Events up to date and put in plenty of information.

Phillip’s Cycling items, etc can be found under “Transport”.

We have a £10 Prize from Sam’s Fruit & Veg Stall which will go into the next Raffle at Philip’s Talk.

Helen is very keen to hear from all with short Videos she can put on the Website, together with Book recommendations etc.

**Change to WhatsApp from Signal**

Philip felt that this had now settled down and members were getting used to **WhatsApp.** It was noted that once new groups had been set up on **WhatsApp** ie Mistletoe Fayre it is not easy to ‘remove’ so it was agreed this would stay for the moment and perhaps be picked up again for use next year or for other purposes. We Advise Archive groups we are not currently using.

As far as new interest and people turning up at the “Talks” Steph felt that this was being driven more by people seeing information on Social Media, The Herald regular articles and the Website.

**3 MEETINGS**

Philip stated that we really need to decide on the pattern for future meetings and the regularity that we wanted. Is it important to have ADMIN and FULL MEMBERS’ MEETINGS? For ADMIN perhaps alternate between ZOOM and a physical meeting.

For ADMIN meetings it was generally felt that perhaps once every 2 months would be appropriate.

Mike made the suggestion that perhaps FULL Meetings could be combined with the Talks…..ie a short meeting to take place after the talks for discussion at a general level to encourage new Members to contribute, etc. Several New Members joined us recently and are now on the Group email which we keep emails private and now amount to

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**4 TALKS**

First Talk of New year – 8th  January 2024. Speaker: Lucie Mann:

There were some teething problems on this cold evening. Lucie had requested that the audience wait in café area. She invited members to enter once she had set up for 7.30 pm start. People were greeted at the foyer door and encouraged to move to the Tea & Coffee area. Brenda was busy selling Raffle Tickets during this time. Unfortunately, despite the fact that we had been asked previously to support the Community Centre, Tea & Coffee facilities, none was on offer. This was, even though a group of people were keen to get a drink. The room in which the Talk was held was cold – a noisy fan blower near the ceiling was on BUT had to be turned off as too noisy to hear the speaker’s voice. All the radiators in the entrance area and room itself appeared to be cold!

Philip felt the Community Hall in Hythe is a good venue and priced suitably as well as it needs to be used more to stay viable, although like many similar community facilities it is really struggling to get volunteers. A meeting is obviously needed with the Manager to discuss our disappointment, experience, etc and to clarify our requirements more clearly (Refreshments, Tables needed, etc.) Philip offered to do this. We also need to improve our Plan for how the evenings will look ie Audience arrive 7pm, encouraged to have drinks, buy Raffle tickets and Talk start at 7.30pm Philip offered to try to undertake this. Philip felt that a 40 minute Talk is really sufficient in time length, then Questions.

Helen wondered if a less formal arrangement of the room could be considered as another option ie for an Ice-Breaker to happen. This is likely to be needed for Philip’s Talk where he wants the audience to do a Survey. Extra tables will be requested. **Helen to suggest how better to lay out.**

**5. FUNDRAISING AND FUTURE EVENTS**

Other venues were discussed….

Another Village Hall, maybe Marchwood (KT to find out information) and look at Blackfield, if a larger venue is needed – Bar & Café.

Pubs were not felt to really be ideal because of background noise.

Mike asked about St Andrew’s Hall but this is felt to be expensive. The same can apply to St John’s Hall, which is used a lot but because of the Tithe to Winchester costs rise.

Cornerstone Church Hall was mentioned but Mike Bundock pointed out that the heating is expensive to run.

Parish Hall in West Street also discussed, but again this is very heavily booked and is expensive.

Marchwood Hall was thought to be a ‘possible’ for Lee Attrill’s Surfers Against Sewage talk as he has connections in that area. Kathy to try to ascertain some information about hire of Marchwood Hall and if available for either l5th or 29th April?

Philip queried whether we will be able to sustain One Talk a Month? We seem to have February (Active Travel) , March (4th or 18th Ben Webster possibly on Cruise Ships in the Port), and April (Lee Attrill – Surfers Against Sewage) 15th or 29th April in place. In future Mike Bundock may be able to do another ie Community Energy and also Shaun. Other aspects that the group would like to cover are “Hydrogen Use”. For May it was suggested that a “Quiz” could be organized at a local Pub venue ie Bold Forester, or Dusty Barrel or The Pilgrim and Steph offered to make some enquiries for the possible date of 20th May. Mike felt one round of the Quiz should be “Climate Change” Barrie enquiring about Hythe Sailing club when organiser is back from leave.

We need to be able to cover the costs of these Talks going forwards. The Hall is costing about £50. The Raffles are a good way of raising some money. Discussion took place about possibly charging a £1 Entry Fee and giving out a Raffle ticket for this OR asking audience to pay Entry AND then offering Raffle Tickets. It is, however. looking very much like we need to find ‘sponsorship’ or other ‘funding’ going forward. Philip stated that if we applied for eg a Community Grant from say, Veolia, this would be a ‘one off’! A new Funding group to be formed on Whats App.

**6a COMMUNITY ENERGY**

Mike updated the group on his meeting with Cornerstone Church concerning the Solar Panels on the roof but they really want to know how a company will be set up etc as they have questions about this, maintenance etc and ?what if there is a failure. WaterCAN would effectively have to become a CIC. Mike is going to be talking with Dragon and their business team to hopefully follow their guidance. Mike Smith felt that we very much need to draw on other peoples’ experience elsewhere to develop the “Model”. A lot of work has been done by other Energy Groups and Mike B will continue to explore this.

**7 NEXT ADMIN MEETING - 7 MARCH 2024 on Zoom at 7.30 Philip to receive agenda ideas, and send out invites.**

**Note: Philip asked that if all members of the Group could consider THREE Key Themes that WaterCAN could adopt to go forward into this coming year. Send him other items for agenda that could be for future consideration.**

**Philip.dowd1@gmail.com**