

Abingdon Carbon Cutters AGM 2019

Weds 19th June 2019, 7.30pm in the garden of St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helens St

Present: Caroline Townsend (chair) , Sally Reynolds (minutes), Maureen Buckingham, Jill Gant, Beverlie Blee, Nina Alphey (Low Carbon Hub CIC), Richard Riggs, John Killick, Susie Howard, Pete Underwood, Chris Brickwood, Catherine Brickwood, Pat Powell, Pippa Hoy, Clive Elsmore, Marion Evans, Rosie Page, Anne Barnes, Sam Bradley.

Apologies: Linda Coker (treasurer), Cliff Marshall, Pauline Marshall, Fiona Habermehl, Lucille Savin, Anne Smart,

Minutes: Minutes of the last AGM on 18th July 2018 were circulated.

Accounts for period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019

Copies of the accounts were circulated, together with Linda's notes. Our balance at the end of the year was a healthy £2,540, up on last year's £2,474. As before, our main source of income has been hiring of the apple press, and donations at meetings.

Appointment of officers

The AGM appoints 3 officers, other roles are co-opted by the Core Group. The officers who had served last year were: Chair: Caroline Townsend, Treasurer: Linda Coker; Secretary: Sally Reynolds. Caroline and Sally were re-appointed, but Linda had asked to be replaced as she is moving away in the coming year. Sam Bradley was nominated by Caroline Townsend to the post of treasurer and was returned unopposed. Linda was thanked warmly for her service as treasurer for many years.

Core Group members for 2018-19 had been Anne Smart, Caroline Townsend, Cliff Marshall, Clive Elsmore, Fiona Habermehl, John Killick, Linda Coker, Lucille Savin, Pippa Hoy, Richard Howard, Richard Riggs, Sally Reynolds, Sam Bowring, and Susie Howard. Richard Howard is standing down this year, the other members continue to serve. Clive Elsmore offered to help manage the website and Pete Underwood offered his IT skills to support membership and the website, and was warmly invited to attend the next Core Group meeting on Weds 3rd July when he can be co-opted.

Welcome to visiting Low Carbon Hub representative Nina Alphey. Nina explained her role as the Communities Director of the Low Carbon Hub this year. LCH helps CAGs and small businesses to reduce energy usage, by offering surveys and helping to identify householders who might be willing to make changes to their houses or behaviour. It can give grants towards retrofitting houses.

Annual Summary of Activity June 2018 - 2019

Caroline presented a written review of the year (attached below) and items arising were taken during the presentation.

Our concern for poor quality new-build insulation was mentioned. Jill Gant felt that local authorities could impose stricter criteria on new builds but don't. Nina reported that Westmill Solar are working on new-build sustainability.

Repair Café: the latest (second) repair café was much better organised than the first and still very enjoyable. 60+ items were brought and over 50% were repaired or fixed or sharpened. We took £106 at the café and £61 for repairs.

Communication was flagged up as a problem: Clive suggested a forum for exchange of ideas. Marion Evans offered to set up a Facebook Group for Carbon Cutters and link it to our Facebook page. Peter Underwood offered to find out how to link Facebook to Twitter or Instagram so that

posts would automatically pull through – it was felt that Instagram is more likely to engage young people.

7. Introduction of co-ordinators of current subgroups . Susie and Richard Riggs co-ordinate the Repair Café, and Susie the Food Group. Anne Smart co-ordinates the Plastics Group, Sharon Betts the Edible Abingdon group and Pauline Marshall the Bee Beds. Fiona leads on the Cookery at Carousel.

8. Suggestions for New Activities for 2019-20

1. **Tree planting.** Trees are a natural way to fix CO2. Clive has explored the potential to plant trees on local farmers' land and would like to start a group to look into this further.
2. **Energy Audit of a local building.** Nina told the group about grants available from LCH to do one energy audit a year of a public building, with possible further grants to carry out any suggested eco-renovation. St Ethelwold's House was mentioned but is a listed building, Northcourt Centre is a 60's building ripe for improvement. Nina to send Sally details of the grants.
3. **Carbon Footprinting.** John proposed that we encourage all our members to know their own carbon footprint, but the problem is choosing a suitable tool. The One Planet Living website has 2 versions, one quick, one detailed, but they are currently not available. Pippa will find out when it is working again and let us all know.
4. **Electric Vehicles.** Pippa knows someone who could give a talk on these. Pete was concerned that there are not currently enough charging points to make it viable in Abingdon. Others were concerned about the unsustainable manufacture and disposal of car batteries. Reducing car use will be essential as converting all current petrol & diesel cars in the world to EVs is not an option. More cycling, walking and public transport needed, as well as reduction in journeys e.g. by remote conferencing etc.
5. **Recycling crisp packets.** The Vale District Offices at Abbey House have a collection point for these items which cannot be put in green bins. Anne Smart to circulate details via email or Facebook.
6. **Work with schools.** Anne Smart is collating a list of contacts in local schools, eco-co-ordinators, eco-clubs, interested parents etc. All to send their contacts to Anne, who will then circulate relevant suggestions for school activities – apple pressing, crisp packet recycling etc.

Date of Next Core Group Meeting: Weds 3rd July, 7.30pm at St Ethelwolds.

Next ACC open meeting: Joint meeting with AbNats on Weds 17th July in Northcourt Centre.

Next AGM - 3rd Wednesday in June or July 2020

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm and was followed by a walking tour of Edible Abingdon's Veg beds, the Pollinator-friendly Perennial beds, and the Wildflower Maze.

Attachments below:

1. Abingdon Carbon Cutters Annual Summary of Activity July 2018-June 2019
2. ACC accounts inc-exp 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

ACC Annual Summary of Activity June 2018 –June 2019

Welcome to the AGM. We have had a very busy and exciting year at Carbon Cutters:

- We set up a Repair Café
- We had many talks and events and had a busy stall at the Abingdon Extravaganza in December, Abingdon Clubs and Societies Day and Abingdon Passion Play
- A group bike ride to Culham Science Centre was followed by a visit to the lab arranged by Clive.
- Fiona restarted cooking classes at the newly reopened Carousel Children's centre
- We are close to achieving SAS "Plastic-Free Community" status

Edible Abingdon

Flower/Veg Beds

ACC planted new raised beds at the Carousel Children's Centre which will be looked after by the children at the Saturday club there.

We built a compost bin at the kiosk beds from pallets. Fruit bushes and sweet peas have been planted there.

Bee Beds

The laurel was removed from the centre of the bed and new perennials planted. The group are asking for volunteers to help on a Sunday morning once or twice a month.

Layla Moran MP

ACC Have met with her twice.

Housing: Four people met her in her surgery in September about poor quality, new-build housing . We followed up with a letter to the Housing Minister. Meanwhile Paul Buckingham has had his findings published in The Guardian in February. <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2019/feb/02/new-build-homes-why-some-owners-are-left-feeling-the-cold>

Plastics: She signed Friends of the Earth "Plastics Action Plan" and agreed to support Abingdon Cuts Plastic where she could

Recycling in Schools. A member started a petition about schools having to pay for recycling, and Layla took it up in Parliament.

Apple Juicing

We now have 3 functioning apple presses, Rupert Griffin charged £549 for servicing and repairing them all, and Richard persuaded Vigo to replace the faulty electronic part of one pasteuriser. Total takings were £1,159.00, total juice pressed 1604 Litres. Chandlings School hired the press for a whole week and raised enough money to build a poly tunnel for their Eco-club.

Community Shop. We ran the apple press in the community FreeSpace in the precinct for 2 weeks in October and had lots of visitors. Sadly the FreeSpace is not there at the moment so there may be no ACC shop this year, instead we may arrange "pop-up" pressings at different venues.

Financial Support

We successfully applied for a grant from the Mid-counties Co-op to support the Repair Café.

Student Consultancy Teams

Student Consultancy: The students surveyed outlets in Abingdon by phone as to whether they wanted to be plastic-free champions and were concerned about plastic pollution, with disappointing results. We thought that they should have made personal visits.

Cookery in Abingdon Carousel Family Centre

Fiona restarted cookery classes for parents and toddlers in the Autumn, using fresh food from the Oxford Food Bank which would otherwise have gone to waste.

ACC Events

We have had many thought-provoking and useful talk nights: Dave Busby shared "The life of honeybees", Population Matters discussed "The Earth we leave our children", Fiona, Kat and Sheila Bachman gave an informal and interactive discussion about how a plant-based diet can contribute to carbon cutting, John Killick showed us the world of "Oxfordshire's threatened plants" and Robert Longstaff shared tips on "Good composting". In addition, ACC had an informative chat with Corinne Castle about Agroecology and Ros Pearmain came to show a film "A Quest for Meaning" with a 15-minute guided "heart meditation" session at the end.

Plastics Group

Big River Clean-ups in October and April were very well-attended.

Anne has sent letters, for signing, to Layla Moran asking all the major supermarkets in Abingdon to commit to reduce their single-use plastic. Caroline has made notices for cafes, offering a price reduction for bringing your own refillable cup

We are close to achieving plastic-free status for Abingdon; we have met 4 of the 5 SAS objectives. This includes having 12 businesses signed up as "Plastic-Free Champions" & St Helen's church and 5 schools so far as "Plastic-Free Allies".

We've presented a power point on "plastic pollution and how we can reduce it" to 2 schools, and have plans to take it to others. We've presented it to U3A & the Twinning Society, and next to the Rotary club on 28th June.

The Town Council passed a Motion on 25th April 2018, endorsing the aims of Abingdon Cuts Plastic and pledging their support. We have previously asked if the Council could use their authority to encourage or require the reduction of single-use plastic by the Monday market and the autumn Fair in Abingdon; the Town Council has responsibility for issuing licences for markets and the Fair.

Repair Café. 100 items were brought to our first Repair Café in April and 50% of them were fixed! The 2nd café last Saturday was quieter but still very enjoyable. Christchurch in Northcourt are very kindly allowing us to use their premises for free. The next one will be on September 7th.

Collaborations/ Links

CAG, Oxford University, Abingdon Green Party, Friends of the Earth, Stonehill Community Garden, Oxford Food Bank, VWHDC, Friends of Abingdon, Abingdon Chamber of Commerce, St. Nicholas Local Church Friday Morning Market.

Contact list membership figures – currently 510 on our email list

Newsletter

Is issued in January, April, July and October. The current newsletter contains an anti-litter poster competition.

Extinction Rebellion and School Strikes presence

50 people came by boat from Oxford on Weds 10th April and Susie, Anne and Sally provided soup and bread before seeing them off on their way to join the protests in London. A new group of Extinction Rebellion Abingdon has just started following the Fun in the Parks day .

ACC officers are very grateful for the hard work and support of the members of the core group who meet on the first Wednesday of each month to plan activities and the wider group of other members who are involved in looking after the bee beds, the Wild Flower maze, Edible Abingdon beds, Caldecott Meadow, juicing apples, Plastics etc.

Caroline Townsend July 2019

Abingdon Carbon Cutters accounts April 2018 – March 2019 Summary

	<u>y/e March 2019</u>	<u>y/e March 2018</u>
	£	£
b/fwd	2,474.20	2,323.99
Income Received	£ 2,088.85	£ 2,895.52
Diff. written off/back		
Insurance Grants	£ <u>50.00</u>	£ <u>50.00</u>
	£ 2,138.85	£ 2,945.52
Expenditure Paid Out	£ 2,022.89	£ 2,745.31
Insurance deducted from grants	£ <u>50.00</u>	£ <u>50.00</u>
	£ 2,072.89	£ 2,795.31
c/fwd	<u>£ 2,540.16</u>	<u>£ 2,474.20</u>
Natwest	£ 2,448.91	£ 2,378.74
Nationwide	£ -	£ -
Petty Cash	£ 91.24	£ 95.45
	<u>£ 2,540.15</u>	<u>£ 2,474.19</u>

Notes to the accounts

ACC has traditionally only produced an income & expenditure account for the year ending 31st March for submission to the CAG network each year. But copies of the cash books, bank reconciliation & cash account are available for inspection.

Where we have had donations in the restricted section but spent more than we were given it has been transferred to the lower section, as in reality we absorb it from general purpose funds (restricted income being that which we received for a specific purpose, normally grants).

Donations from the hire of the apple press & sale of juice are deemed as general as are the contributions collected at the meetings, which normally cover the public meetings at St Ethelwold House & any other room hire & storage.

Where we have negative balances brought forward this is to help us to track expenditure from general funds on various ongoing projects over more than one year.

Linda Coker, Treasurer.

	<u>Net</u> <u>Gain/Loss</u> <u>Bfwd</u>	<u>Income</u> <u>This Year</u>	<u>Expenses</u> <u>This Year</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Gain/Loss</u> <u>Cfwd</u>
<u>Restricted</u>				
Abingdon On Thames Town Council Grant	250.00			250.00
CAG Grants_ Including Insurance	250.00			250.00
Old Station House Edible Abingdon Donation	0.00	50.00		50.00
Abingdon Cuts Plastics		50.00	50.00	0.00
	<u>500.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>550.00</u>
<u>Unrestricted</u>				
Abingdon Cuts Plastics	0.00		168.00	-168.00
Apple Press & Juicing	2,474.51	1,327.00	596.34	3,205.17
Environmental Development (Abbey Meadow)	-282.21		0.00	-282.21
Environmental Development (Bee Beds)	-235.68		159.60	-395.28
Environmental Development (Edible Abingdon)	-330.40		26.94	-357.34
Environmental Development (Misc - Forest Classroom etc.)	-147.42			-147.42
Misc	1,747.61	55.00	135.00	1,667.61
Room - Monthly Meetings/Events	-719.39	511.85	520.61	-728.15
Storage Hire	-200.00		200.00	-400.00
Website	-332.83		71.40	-404.23
	<u>1,974.19</u>	<u>1,893.85</u>	<u>1,877.89</u>	<u>1,990.15</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
	<u>2,474.19</u>	<u>1,993.85</u>	<u>1,927.89</u>	<u>2,540.15</u>
per combined bank acs & cash	<u>£</u>			<u>£</u>
	<u>2,474.19</u>			<u>2,540.15</u>