

Transition Cambridge AGM 1/Oct/2012

About 25 members were present.

Accounts

Martin Roach presented the accounts. His report is appended to these minutes. The accounts were accepted and it was suggested that in future the accounts would include a breakdown of the final balance by group allocation.

Election of officers

There were no new nominations for offices. The existing officers were re-elected:

- Anna McIvor - chair
- Martin Roach - treasurer
- Nicola Terry - secretary

Project grants proposal

Martin proposed that since the accounts are healthy we should make £1000 available as grants: 4x £250. The grant application would include:

- Project Name
- Project Objective (include measurable indicators where possible)
- Brief Description of the Project (Max 100 words)
- Project Leader/Reporter
- Length of Project (include tentative start/end dates if appropriate)
- Amount of Funding Required
- How Will the Funds be Used?
- How Does the Project Fit with Transition Cambridge's Aims?

We agreed by vote that

- Applications would be considered by the hub
- At least 5 people needed
- Consensus is required.

Discussion of this proposal identified some other issues to be considered later by the hub:

- Would this money be better used towards a paid helper?
- Could this money be used to support key Transition workers for training purposes?
- Several people felt that splitting the money and offering some smaller amounts would be worthwhile. Anna reminded everyone that there was a simple 'ask the Hub' system already in place for small amounts of up to £50 - and that we should publicise this more widely among sub groups and the wider community.

AOB

Kati Preston spoke for 1 minute requesting support for a campaign against the Cambridge Business Improvement District (CBBID). Objectors believe that this will be detrimental to independent local shops. There is to be a meeting on Wednesday 3rd October about it. Kati distributed leaflets to people who were interested.

Review of the year

The annual report describes our activities in the year (now available from the website). In the meeting we made a list of achievements for celebration. In no particular order:

- Local food events
- Garden share
- Permaculture garden course
- Cambake
- Cropshare harvest party
- Economics of Happiness (film) - sold out twice
- Music Evening
- AGM
- Vision
- Talks
- Seed swaps and plant swap
- 4th Birthday party
- Grow zones
- Cake and bread
- Steps toward setting up a local business
- Transport and energy forums
- E-newsletter (helps you find things that you don't see elsewhere)
- Local fruit
- People understanding permaculture as the basis for transition
- Sustainable Souk (local food connection website)
- Structure (now have accounts, constitution etc.)
- Annual report
- Outreach and networking with other groups such as CCF and GEAG
- Cameraderie of meetings
- Local press coverage
- Our calendar is so full it is impossible to do everything - a richness of opportunity
- At our stalls, people come who already know us
- New people

Planning and inspiration for next year

We discussed this briefly amongst ourselves and posted suggestions for both reasonable and blue sky goals onto a frieze. Here they are:

Autumn	Focus on steps to have an office Transition Party
Winter	Getting the council to plant fruit trees Edible municipal planting Cropshare orchard
Spring	Outreach to other parts of Cambridge Outreach to nearby villages and towns to start other transition initiatives Reach greater community - transition streets? Food hub Transition meeting place/workshop space/café Café Fleet of bike trailers Nature in Transition group More cheaper permaculture courses
Summer	Transition Central Popup transition events (empty premises) More growing spaces, fruit and nut trees in streets Making Cambake an existing community bakery
Further into the Future	Visionary grant application More local sustainable businesses in the centre of town Car Free Town Centre (focus on sustainable transport) 75% of Cambridge population in transition Paid staff for Transition Start up for social, local enterprises like sustainable souk/CamBake Cambridge Pound LETS system

Treasurers Report

The Accounting Period extended from Oct 1st, 2011 (the closing date of the previous audit) through to June 30th, 2012 (as we now intend to close the account at mid-year, every year).

Income for the period was £3,336.26 representing the difference between Revenue of £7,505.32 and Expenses of \$4,169.06.

This led to a closing balance at June 30th, 2012, of £9,443.81 of which almost all £9,390.33, was held in the Co-op bank account and £53.48, as cash on hand.

	Opening Balance Oct 1st, 2011	Closing Balance June 30th, 2012
Bank	£6,092.36	£9,390.33
Cash	£15.19	£53.48
Total	£6,107.55	£9,443.81
Change	£3,336.26	
Total Revenue	£7,505.32	
Total Expenses	£4,169.06	
Income	£3,336.26	

Source of funds	
Interest	£4.78
Produce	£37.50
Stall Space	£100.00
Stalls (donations)	£238.54
Standing Orders	£245.00
Donations	£457.26
Film*	£677.24
Course Fees**	£1,745.00
Grants***	£4,000.00
Total	£7,505.32

* Most of the film income was subsequently donated to ISEC UK, the makers of the film "Economics of Happiness", with TC retaining 10% for organising the two events.

** These are the course fees from the Permaculture Gardening Course. Expenses from this course totalled £1,165.06, leaving the permaculture group with a surplus for future events.

*** Both these grants were for the Growing Spaces project: £3,000 from the City Council's Sustainable City grants, and £1,000 from the Future Friendly Awards.

Use of Funds		
Core expenses	Leaflets and posters	£31.20
	Web and newsletter	£158.32
	Office rent (finished)	£216.65
	Insurance	£227.30
Events and stalls	Stalls	£87.00
	Events (including film licenses)	£774.49
	Room bookings	£276.60
Groups	CaSFA: poster design and printing	£198.00
	Cropshare: equipment	£199.44
	Permaculture: course	£1,165.06
	Permaculture: general expenses	£55.00
Other	Returned grant money	£780.00
	Total	£4,169.06

Audit

The accounts have been approved by the auditor Ms Jane Cook; we thank her for her efforts. A copy of her letter is available on request.

Her one recommendation is that a receipt be provided by the Treasurer to any person submitting cash so that we have evidence of the amount paid and to whom. Please ensure you receive this if you are paying cash to the Treasurer for crediting to the Transition Cambridge accounts

Latest Figures

The latest unaudited figures for Oct 1st 2012 are a closing balance of £7,845.90. The reduction from June 30th is explained by expenses due to the Growing Spaces Project, the Energy Group and Hub Overheads (room Rentals, bulletin costs etc.) having now been paid.

Treasurers Comments

While the bank account plus cash stands at a healthy £7,845.90 as at October 1st 2012, approximately half of this sum represents grants received for projects which are still in progress and therefore need to be ring-fenced until our obligations are fulfilled and to meet any further expenses to achieve this.

Nevertheless we still have a significant surplus and this money should best be used in projects to fulfil our objectives. Therefore it is proposed that, while seeking to maintain our sound financial position, we seek ways to ensure that these funds are put to good use by calling for and responding to requests for support from sub-groups or outside bodies.

If such an approach is approved then it is suggested that we could make a sum of £1,000 available in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank those members who have contributed to our funds through monthly standing orders at a time when we were seeking to cover our overheads. They played no small part in helping keep us solvent.

Martin Roach, Treasurer
Sept 2012