

Transition Cambridge AGM 7th Oct 2013

Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane, 7:30-9pm.

About 35 people were present. (There are 79 registered members.)

Review of the year

A representative from each group explained what they had been doing over the last 12 months. A summary of these presentations will appear in the annual report. Each presenter was asked to send a summary or their notes to Anna/Nicola for inclusion and the intention is to publish this on 21st October.

Group	Representative
Food	Jacky Sutton Adam
Cropshare	Axel Minet
Cambake	Ivan Ivanovic
Growing Spaces/Community gardens	Anna Mclvor
Energy	Stuart Dyer
Permaculture	Dave Jackson
Café	Liz Serocold
Wildlife Wanderings	Jade Cawthray
Greeniversity	Ben Kiddering

The formal part of the AGM

Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.

Accounts

Anna Mclvor presented the accounts on behalf of our treasurer Martin Roach, who was unable to attend, but sent his apologies. Martin prepared the accounts for the year ending 30th June, and they were audited by Jane Cook. A summary will appear in the annual report and is appended at the end of these minutes. The closing balance was £5,963.42, which was considered a healthy balance to see us through the next couple of years. We expect about £1000 worth of expenses to be claimed in the near future and there are other purchases expected including a new gazebo.

The accounts were accepted and we thanked Martin in his absence.

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

AOB

Should we have a volunteer coordinator?

Antony Carpen asked if we should have a volunteer coordinator. This issue has been raised before at hub meetings and it is tricky. The problem is that volunteers often want to be told what to do and supported in how to do it. However, the normal Transition approach is for volunteers to do what they want. However having a coordinator might help to bring in new people and could help with some tasks. There is a volunteers page on the website but not many people seem to know about it. (It has been getting 20-40 hits/month and is here:

<http://www.transitioncambridge.org/thewiki/ttwiki/pmwiki.php?n=TT.HelpNeeded.>)

About Clean Energy

Ruth Lambert observed that whereas our energy used to come from the 'spine' of Britain it is now increasingly coming from the 'frilly bits' from wind turbines especially offshore for example at Lowestoft - and that we don't need fracking too.

Should Transition Cambridge be/have a company?

This question was raised by Jason Palmer. CamBake and the Energy group are both now spinning off companies and the question raised was if some activities would be easier if we already had a company. One answer is that Cambake and the Energy group would still need to have separate companies for a number of reasons, partly so that risks in one company do not affect the other and partly to enable access to tax breaks such as the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme. We asked some of the groups if having a company would have helped and no one was able to give a definite yes. It was suggested we should look at the Transition Network Reconomy project and the article in the Transition Free Press about the 10 most successful businesses resource for further inspiration.

The value of Transition Cambridge to other groups

Pippa Vine made an observation that support from Transition Cambridge is very helpful to other groups such as Fulbourn Forum for Community Action. For example using the weekly bulletin is very useful for publicity.

Hub Meetings

Hub meetings happen once a month on a Monday. Each group is expected to send a representative and other people may come as observers. It was agreed that these meetings should be publicised as transition events to invite more people to come as observers, as it is a great way to find out more about what happens in Transition Cambridge and about how the different groups work.

Should spin-offs retain Transition Cambridge branding?

Pippa Vine asked if spin-offs such as Cambake and the Community Energy Company should retain branding to show they came from Transition Cambridge. The current situation is that this is up to the group in question. This should be raised at a hub meeting.

New Groups

A new Media and Communication Group is starting up and needs support to build momentum.

Looking forward

We split into small groups to generate ideas about the coming year, in answer to the questions “What is your vision for the next year of Transition?” People’s ideas were captured on paper, and these have been typed in below.

Summary of ideas

Communication seems to be the big theme whether that’s communicating externally with the general public, inviting new people to get involved or communicating within TC.

- getting the message about Transition out
- more local press exposure
- extending the sphere of influence eg
 - lobbying local government (especially on planning issues)
 - engage more with university students
- inviting more people to get involved
- networking between groups within TC
- making links with other groups in Cambridge (eg activists)
- networking with Transition groups in other places
- web-site

One actionable idea - ‘Transition card’ - a postcard with info about groups, projects.

Some focus on doing ‘more of the same’ - the practical projects, like growing food.

Social events are also popular...and getting together to inspire each other and ourselves.

List of ideas (by colour of pen...)

green pen

more contact with nature
home-made wine tasting session
more people growing more food
picking more fruit
more children-friendly events
more social events
improve communication
bring your own mug

blue pen

consolidation
less clashing of events
stepping back vs stepping forward
help with coordinating publicity

green pen

a Transition representative for each area of Cambridge to introduce
Transition to new people
encouraging people to join the groups
'fishing in a different pond'
extend the sphere of influence
new ideas, enthusiasm

black pen

wider and more diverse reach to the public
need to get more political to gain critical momentum
continued awareness raising
new views
new faces
find core successes and build on them
increase in outdoor activities and seminars

black pen

inclusivity and outreach

blue pen

dedicated space
more people involved
engage more with university students
Transition-themed 'card' with details of specific projects
more networking with other Transition groups in the country

orange pen

communication - web pages not clear enough
compelling message
all group communications should link to e-bulletin

Treasurers Report

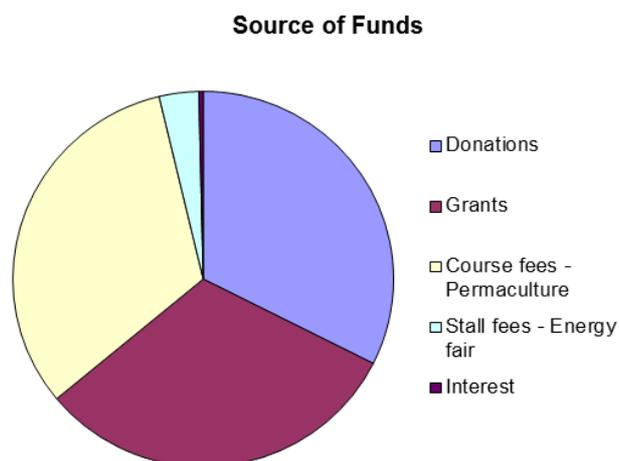
The Accounting Period extended from July 1st, 2012 (the closing date of the previous audit) through to June 30th, 2013.

The closing balance at June 30th, 2013 was £5,963.42 of which almost all £5,903.42 was held in the Co-op bank account and £60.00 as cash on hand.

	Opening Balance July 1st, 2012	Closing Balance June 30th, 2013
Bank	£9,390.33	£5,903.42
Cash	£53.48	£60.00
Total	£9,443.81	£5,963.42
Change	- £3,480.39	
Total Revenue	£2,372.62	
Total Expenses	£5,853.01	
Income	-£3,480.39	

Source of funds

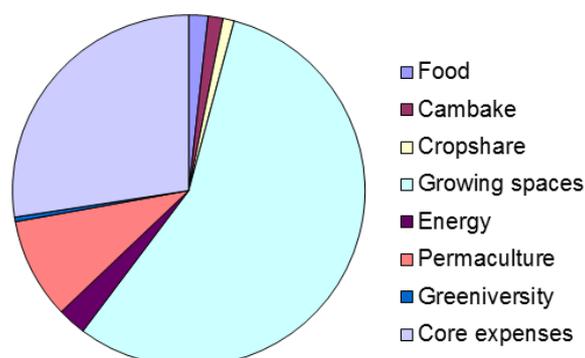
Source of funds	Amount
Donations	£768.84
Grants	£750.00
Course fees – Permaculture course	£765.00
Stall fees - Energy fair	£80.00
Interest	£8.78
Total	£2,372.62



Breakdown of expenses

Group (and main items)	Amount
Food (apple press, stall, items for stall)	£102.50
Cambake (printing leaflets)	£80.00
Cropshare	£59.86
Growing spaces (grants in previous year's accounts)	£3,282.93
Energy (forum expenses)	£153.64
Permaculture (association subscription, workshop expenses and fees)	£544.00
Greeniversity (venue hire)	£25.00
Core expenses (see breakdown)	£1,605.08
Total	£5,853.01

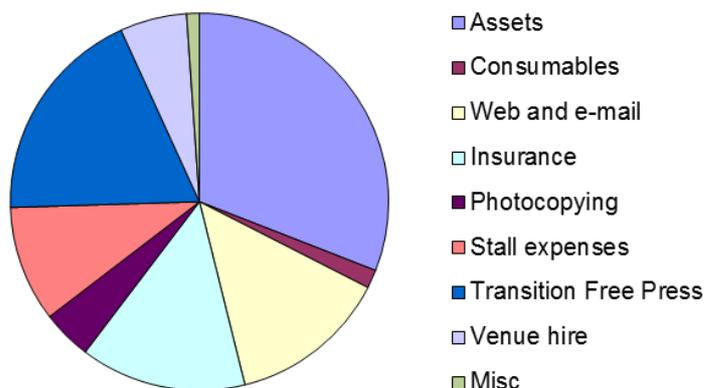
Use of Funds, by Group



Breakdown of core expenses

Item	Amount
Assets (books, DVDs, microphone and loudspeaker, banner)	£496.82
Consumables (stamps, flipchart paper)	£25.46
Web and e-mail	£218.37
Insurance	£227.30
Photocopying	£68.14
Stall expenses	£160.00
Transition Free Press	£300.00
Venue hire	£91.50
Misc	£17.49
Total	£1,605.08

Breakdown of core expenses



Audit

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

Summary of this year's accounts

- The amount held in the bank has gone down, mainly because a large grant (for the Growing Spaces project) has been used up.
- At last year's AGM we agreed to try to reduce the funds that we hold in the bank, in order to ensure that the money is put to good use supporting local projects that share Transition aims. In order to achieve this, we agreed to offer £250 grants to local projects in need of funds. We have so far awarded one such grant to CamBake.
- The Transition Cambridge finances remain healthy, with sufficient funds to see us through the coming year.

Martin Roach, Treasurer and Anna McIvor, Chairperson
October 2013