

Minutes of TLT Steering Group Meeting, 7.30pm, 8th April 2025

In person at Plas Madoc

and on Zoom

Present were: Geoff, Penny, Alan, Heulyn, Sally

1. Apologies – Angela, Hilary, David, Blue, Sian
2. March minutes and matters arising – minutes agreed.
 - The issue of a crush at the beginning of the Repair café was according to an email from Hilary to be tackled by keeping the side door locked until 2pm, and volunteers will enter by the front door.
 - **Heulyn volunteered to create some small labels** to stick on the Transition Together postcards obtained by David at the Assembly, with the website address, a QR code, email of secretary
 - Geoff had spoken to a relevant person in the Health Board which enabled Sian and Doriennne to set up a stall at the recent event at the Pavilion on Veganism. Sally and Heulyn both raised the issue of TLT being seen to stand for veganism, which should not be the case, not only because there are a variety of views as to what constitutes a solution to food and farming questions, but also we do not want to alienate those who do not support veganism as the answer. Powys in particular is well positioned to promote local produce, including meat, over an exclusively vegan diet. Penny referred back to the Constitution which sets out the groups aims and purpose and it was recognised that a variety of views could be included within that, without the group being defined by any of them. Sally referred to the THRIVE course, which emphasised the need for projects to be non-divisive, as well as the writings of Colin Tudge who warned of the tendency of western cultures to create divisions and conflict.
3. Project updates:
 - a) Green Coffee – There had not been another since the last steering group. The next one is due this Saturday, 12th.
 - b) Incredible Edible and Seed Library – the seed swap event was lively and successful. A similar endeavour in Llanddewi at The Walsh the previous week had been supported by our Seed Library too.

Geoff referred to agreed funding for a ladder for IE. Then the Town Council had agreed to donate £120 for an arch, created by the Men's Shed, as quoted by them. It transpired that this quote went up to £162. For the record, a cheaper ladder will be found so that the books may be balanced between the 2 items.

- c) Pomarium and Forest Garden – Hilary emailed as follows:

By no means for the first time, I spent a whole hour a week or so ago clearing up rubbish and deliberately-thrown broken glass from all over the tarmac area. This was perpetrated by people who I cannot believe to have the wellbeing of the community at heart. I collared my local PCSO, and told him about it, to be passed on to the police station.

Geoff suggested that a bin was needed. Alternatively, a sign could indicate where the nearest council bins were situated. **PN to contact David** for a quote

- d) Repair Café and Morsbags – see matters arising

4. Town council liaison – neither representative is available today as our meeting clashes with another important meeting for the council

5. Future monthly talks-

- a) April - Sarenta King (RWT) on the river Wye and climate change. NB Note date is **29th April, not 22nd**, as we have a long month of Tuesdays! Distribution of posters – Penny will provide the posters on Friday, to Angela and Hilary. Sarenta has had these printed kindly, financed by RWT. A separate copy as attachment to go to Sally and Hilary for FB, newsletter, press.

- b) May – Guided walk at Gilfach nature reserve led by RWT, **2pm 17th May**. Car share arrangements to be finalised. **BF next steering group**. The walk would take about 3 hours, unless we request a shorter version! At present 7 people want to attend and all can be accommodated in cars already identified. **Publicity needed** soon so that we can collate any further attendees.

- c) Steven Jones, permaculture and biochar specialist, on improving soils and sequestering carbon, outside at the **Forest Garden, June 24th**, time to be confirmed (slightly earlier than usual?). Also Rock Park as a back-up venue to take cover if it rains? Refreshments? It was identified that the Rock Park venue will have been taken over by Lee Percy by then and so **PN will liaise with him** to find out if the venue

- might be open/able to be accessed. Alternatively, we could have the Commodore on hand as a back-up.
- d) Mat Sheldon from Tir Coed has now agreed to do our **July** talk on 22nd, at the Commodore.
 - e) Riversimple have responded positively to David – they could take the **August** slot perhaps? **David to follow up.**
6. Review of the revised TLT leaflet before going to print – still pending. Use of Transition postcards – see matters arising.

7. AOB

Sally raised an intention to use some of the skills and inspiration gained from the THRIVE course she had attended to create an event, which could be longer than 2 hours, to reach out to the community and involve more people in our endeavours. The social media platform of Transition Together called VIVE could be explored.

Heulyn said she had recently attended a course at the Centre for Alternative Technology where there had been public lectures, one of which by Sarah Woods had been about transformational social change and the power of Story and how this can change the world. The Story of the last 70 years had centred around conflict, which is quite rigid in structure.

Sally also mentioned 'Story-telling for Changemakers', an excellent initiative which had happened some years ago.

It seems that with David's experiences gained at the assembly, we have the makings of a fertile discussion event, with potentially 3 aspects to combine – Sally and Thrive, Heulyn and the CAT lectures and David and the Assembly, as well as the 'post-it sticker' exercise of the Christmas social meeting. It would be a great shame not to harness all this inspirational gain. Suggested action: **Sally, David and Heulyn to discuss** format of an event, perhaps in the autumn (September or October?), in place of a monthly talk. It could be e.g. half a day at a weekend.