

Gamlingay CAG- First Meeting Thursday 9th December-via Zoom-7.45pm- 396 939 3471

Chair : K Warburton (PC), other residents present Sheryl Cousins, Guy Kiddy, Peter Condon, Jean York, Larry New (PC), Jenny Shelton and Kevin , Lindsay Bygraves, Hilary Young, Sarah Howe, Kirstin Rayner (Clerk-minutes), Rev Hilary Young

Apologies: Emma Leaf Grimshaw (unwell), Nicola Jenkins (previous engagement)

Introduction- KW- resident 10 years, 2 years ago GPC discussed climate emergency and did not progress to declaring an emergency. 2021 PC has formally declared a climate emergency, and aims to take climate issues into account in all future decision making. KW we need to do more, all we can to help face issues in relation to climate. We all have investment in the future of the planet, how can we change individually. KW tasked with setting up a working party- circulated terms of reference (TOR) , to identify what the priorities should be for Gamlingay? KW aims to identify 'low hanging fruit' easiest possible solutions for our community. Younger generation most heavily hit. KW has contacted Youth Club- keep open two-way communication, and also Gamlingay VP- teachers don't have time to join group. Look at inter-generational relationships.

Group members asked to introduce themselves

Sheryl Cousins- a parent, concerns about single use plastic-successful in grant from SCDC Zero Carbon for Eco Community Group- to engage with younger generation-change attitude with single use plastics and product use-pop up shop offering freebies, sell products and possibly a refill shop. Attended village summer fete and Gamlingay show- hampered by covid. Currently re-evaluating the project.

Peter Condon- 12 years a resident, member of the dormant GEAG group with N Jenkins- certain aspects are relevant to this. Previously involved in the wind turbine, monthly meetings at the eco hub, annual green day event- voluntary organisations came and demonstrated /showed green credentials at Green Event- may be worth considering this again. Works for Shuttleworth college and undertaking a free 24 week course on climate change, and environmental awareness. (4 hours a week)

Keith Warburton- Village Show a focal point- suggests a electric vehicle show- old and new card-involving owners in the village-show their kit. SC messaged about community electric charging points.

Sarah Howe- a vegan, runs a plastic free shop in Gamlingay (9 years resident), keen on environment issues-individually engaged in agenda. Having a group to identify obtainable things. Individuals can make a difference-groundswell opinion trying to help people make the right choices-issues are becoming mainstream. Sarah is a vegetarian, concerns about the food implications for the planet. Consumer decisions resulting from mass industrialisation-how we make individual actions to take things back. KW- one meal a week non-meat can make a huge difference-to consider.

Jean York- Resident 8 years in Chapelfields and Blythe Way- now has electric central heating not gas. Changing to electric cars- can't have them on Blythe Way due to distance of parking away from property. KW did write about this. A problem in villages. There are solutions coming along, but it is an infrastructure issue. Premises could install some on a commercial basis (Eco Hub)

Lindsay Bygraves- WI over 60 years in the local area, lived in Gamlingay over 34 years. WI have a commitment to look after others. WI struggling to recruit younger members-here to listen. Lives in

grade 2 listed property- not able to install double glazing- can not introduce energy efficiency measures at present.

KW- WI campaigns on many issues-the engagement with younger audience- perhaps the threat to humanity of climate change is the way to engage with younger members of the community. JY- climate was last year's national theme so have a new one this year.

WI- keen to share knowledge and involve existing members.

Kirstin Rayner- Parish clerk since 2004 with Leanne Bacon- previous resident for 13 years. 2019 undertook calculating parish Councils Carbon footprint, reviewed main scopes of influence- main contributor was waste/litter picking. Community buildings in good shape- Eco Hub practically carbon neutral, Methodist Chapel has Air Source Heat pump, although limited insulation at present. Travel in by car- diesel 3 days a week- saving up for an electric car... One purpose is also to write minutes of group. Good to measure carbon footprint of whole parish/by resident to understand starting point.

Jenny Shelton and Kevin- Resident 2 years in the village, main interests are to improve biodiversity of the village, background environmental science, employed by RSPB. Joint nature crisis- areas interlinked. Interested in carbon capture, doing stuff locally- work to date on wildflower verges in the village and green spaces. Kevin involved in Swift project, ran out of swift boxes- project very successful- applying for more grant. Wants a swift box n every home if possible. Swifts need insects to eat/more pollinators. Keen to encourage others to do things individually, together make a big difference-meaningful change.

Jean interested in working with jenny-Gardening Club hat- Jenny happy to talk at WI/Gardening Club meeting.

Rev. Hilary Young- Not too well and mainly listening to meeting. Works closely with Pastor Adrian Semerene (Baptists) -conduit to the church community. Only Jean is a member of congregation at the meeting. Church is the community and should be part of this. Hilary experience at OU on climate change as an applied biologist 20 years ago. Now hitting the headlines 25 years too late. Issue is wider than environment- what people eat. Interested in changing management practices in the churchyard- so its not as scalped- following up on work done in the church hall garden-meadow establishment. Relationship between Diocese and Parish council-need to plan this together. Beekeepers- interested in more village bees-local beekeepers -know of any? GK has two beehives on farm.JS- wild bees can be brought back with provision of wildflowers-200 species of bees- will benefit the environment.

Guy Kiddy- Local farmer- provides Christmas turkeys- local food producer.- buy local. Keen to look at grow local- cut down transport miles between farm gate and customers. Only 10-90 turkeys sold locally this year. Group- unaware- local publicity.

KW- attitudes a concern from PM statement about green sandalled people relating to gas boilers. HY- it is a relationship thing, how we present the information to engage people. Solar panels on church roof- not easy- insurance now likely to charge increased premiums negating gain for the church- finances need to come from somewhere. Discussion about buying local- possibly the first initiative. HY- community fridge is successful-god work here already.

Larry New- Parish Councillor, chair of the Gazette- lived in the village since 2004-ran business from home. Also is a trustee of the Eco Hub. Aim to get to zero waste economy- it's a big bag-covers food production, machinery, packaging, transport very difficult to address. Have a top-level aspiration-

conservation, production of packaging reuse materials without burning. HY-Waste digester produces power from waste. LN-a set of guided principles -lifestyle changes- only way to balance future existence. Individuals should aspire to get as close as possible to zero waste. Reduction of waste would reduce extent of energy required . Big ideas-need to make them relatable to this community.

Discussed community composting- 3 stage composting containers-possibly at the Allotments? Space required- currently fully let. KR- responsibility for allotments currently with GAGA- members to discuss. Currently 4 on the waiting list at present.

GK- have a muck heap and happy to make available for arisings be dumped from wildflower cutting to muck heap. KR to follow up on this suggestion. Anaerobic digestion- GK- one at Waresley- quite problematic dependent on waste- has to be balanced right to create energy. Not likely to be suitable as a solution locally.

KW- group not driven by individuals- needs to be an umbrella for community activity.

Next meeting to consider thoughts aired at meeting – put together thoughts for this group to take forward to next meeting. May be some extra faces with new ideas next time.

KW- Bassingbourn got funding for a new website (seen as bit 'old hat'). JS advised expert in social media and publicity and can help the group with professional expertise.

KW- tasked to produce an action plan by November 2022- thinks this can be done within timescales.

Next meeting to be arranged in January.

Everyone thanked for their attendance.

Meeting closed 21.03pm

13-12-21