

## **Minutes of the Environmental Society**

### **Annual General Meeting held**

**Thursday 11th October 2007 – 6pm.**

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Those in attendance: Aysha Al-Rubaie; Frances Hawkes; Victoria Brooks; Clive Shrubsole; Nina Hughes; Antoinette Kriel; Will Fletcher; Alistair Thompson; Ralph Allison; Richie Simon and Tim Acott.

Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Hanly, Kate Bowley and Mike McGibbon.

#### **1. Welcome and opening speech from Aysha Al-Rubaie.**

Opening welcome given by Aysha and a brief explanation why the Society was set-up in May and this being with the main aim of discussing and addressing local environmental issues. Acknowledgment was also given to the website which is still in the process of being drawn-up, but will be ready within the next month.

#### **2. Proposed timetable of events for 2007/08.**

- The first event of the year will be the locally and ethically produced wine evening on Friday 26th October at 7.30pm, followed by a talk from Dr Colin Hills and Dr Paula Carey on Thursday 15th November about Carbon8.
- A Christmas meal will be arranged for the end of term and suggestions on venues and dates would be gratefully received.
- Dr Mike McGibbon will be talking about Green-grid on Wednesday 23rd January and further activities include a trip to Bore Place and BBQ in summer 2008 (full list held on website).
- This however is not an exhaustive list and members with ideas for outings, informative talks and support to environment issues are welcome as long as they meet the values of the Society and financial accounting procedures were adhered to.
- Tim Acott suggested that talks should be given from outside the University. He suggested that someone from the NRI could attend – which he has offered to arrange.
- It was proposed that the Society could attend the Eden Project again in summer 2008 as it had been successful this year and good value for students who enter half price. Richie Simon suggested that maybe this could be attended as a field trip through the school. Tim said he would look into this.

#### **3. Society values and framework for activities.**

Everyone was made aware of the core values for the Society and informed that a copy would be on the web site.

Under the framework of values Clive Shrubsole has agreed to be the main contact for volunteering, due to his links with Capstone Park. This may include one off events or longer commitments and conservation work.

In regard to partnering with outside organisations, Tim Acott suggested that the University Sustainability Centre could possibly help with this due to interest locally for an organic allotment project funded by the Lottery (similar to the community participation at Hadlow) and the Society could be a good bridge to this and encourage people to get involved. Alistair expressed interest for any practical work for the allotment as an experienced gardener.

#### **4. Any other business.**

Frances Hawkes expressed concern at the lack of ‘greenness’ of the University in general. She would like to see more being done on campus, like recycling.

Concern was also expressed at the poor state of the Medway campus in general (especially Greenwich) with the poor state of buildings and site management in general.

We were informed that there had been a new recycling policy, but for more action Stuart Ashenden who is responsible for student affairs at Greenwich is a good starting point.

Aysha said she will contact the site maintenance manager to discuss concerns but with regards to recycling, these are mainly Medway Council issues (collection and separation). It was also suggested that liaising with the other two Universities on site to see what their policies were for recycling and whether they would be willing to support us in this, maybe a good idea. Geoff Brown at Canterbury would be a good contact.

Will said that his concern was with the new green lidded bins they have implemented in his area as he did not know what exactly what went in them. Clive said that he can find out from Medway Council.

Aysha asked everyone to check their contact details to be updated for membership cards.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm, with the preparation of membership cards.