

ChalCAN CG Meeting Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30pm at The Parish Centre.

Present: Hilary Burgess (HB) (Chair) Andy Williams (AW) Liz Baldwin (LB) Gill Thomas (GT) Nick White (NW) Sandra Hickmore (SH)

Apologies: Jim Boccock (JB) Grace O'Donovan G'OD) Liam Nolan (LN) David Wood (DW) Katherine Dalton (KD) Karen Phimister (KP)

1. Minutes of last meeting/actions arising/Introductions

The following people were welcomed:

Sandra Hickmore (SH) introduced herself to CG – keen interest in energy and transport.

Nick White (NW) from Dark Skies gave a short introduction. He has been involved in the 'Commission for Dark Skies' and has been a member for 5 years. Much crossover between astronomy and ecology with regards to issues with domestic flood lighting, street lighting etc. Street lights contain LED's that cause blue light disruption. Warmer lights are better than colder ones. Focus on putting the right lights in the right place, switched on for the right amount of time. LEDs use less electricity than traditional lighting but are more impactful on Dark Skies. GCC has a dimming strategy. We could ask GCC to put warming filters in or gel. HB asked how ChalCAN can promote this. NW suggested we explore how to integrate into ecological work ChalCAN does. LN has in the past investigated into creating 'Dark Sky Community Status'. NW has spoken to Rodger Budgeon about Dark Skies Status. SH suggested creating 'Dark Streets'. LB thinks there would be a lot of interest. Dark Skies to be included in this month's newsletter – send NW what BisCAN sent. **Action GT DONE.** Make JB and biodiversity aware of what NW is doing. **Action GT DONE.** LB suggested including Dark Skies material on the Biodiversity stand on the green during GBGW. Possible link to FFW – Sophie/Liz. **Action GT**

2. Energy plans/update

Roof top solar project – Richard Deane. First For Solar (FFS) – ongoing problems and so Richard has pulled the plug on them. Customers are attempting to reclaim their 10% deposits. Since ChalCAN supported this it is now impacting on our reputation. 120 people applied. A small company has since been found in Stroud – name unknown – they are to attempt half a dozen installations. *Community solar farm:* A potential site has been found in Bisley. This will be run jointly with BisCAN. AW is hoping to meet the company in a couple of weeks. £1000 ear marked for initial costs.

GBGW – AW has no ideas yet. HB suggested 'open homes'. Maybe just 1 or 2 this time that have air source/PV. A retrofit project would have more relevance than a new build.

Surveys and Loft insulations – AW spoke to Tricia and Chris (green councillors) about the SDC property with poor roof insulation and will follow up as Council came but still no action taken. The council have run out of money and don't have the staff. There are funds in ChalCAN to do the insulation but LB pointed out problems with liability if there were problems – ChalCAN is not an incorporated organisation/legal entity and therefore the individual who carried out the work would be liable. For some houses it was suggested that ChalCAN could pay for materials, and the householder pay a contractor to install. For the SDC house the tenant would not be able to do this. **Action AW.** SH and AW to discuss further and explore householder grants. **ACTION SH and AW.**

Recently Dave has surveyed the Frith Youth Centre. AW to ask Christine who owns the actual building. AW to send Dave's report and research grants for community buildings (e.g. Severn Trent Community Fund). **Action AW.**

Imaging camera – there is £150 in the budget for one if needed. However, they appear to be of limited use unless higher spec.

3. Biodiversity plans/update

Parish Bank: JB absent from tonight's meeting but HB reported that there is a problem with Gigaclear wanting to dig up the Parish Bank to install fibre BB to the Chalford Band building. There is a meeting with the Parish Council on May 11th to discuss the issue with GigaClear and to try and find an alternative route for the new cables. HB to arrange attendance.

Beer slops for slugs. LN has suggested asking Stroud Brewery for its dregs to be used as slug deterrents for locals. It was suggested the King's Head might be a better option. Write letter to King's Head asking them to make beer slops available to local people to catch their slugs.

Action GT.

The Early Bird Walk was attended by 15 people.

4. Transport plans/update

Bike racks: Bussage school have now installed theirs. The racks at Eastcombe Scout hut are going ahead. 2 more sites have been identified at Frith Youth Centre and France Lynch Church Rooms. Up to £800 may be needed for the concrete bases; although costs might be reduced by installing 4 concrete posts. It was suggested we ask the footpath group for their help with erection of the bike racks. **Action HB.** Agreed potentially there are funds for this – HB to return to the CG once alternatives have been explored.

The family friendly cycle route, funded by BBB. This will be piloted during GBGW on the second Saturday (17th) in the afternoon. 6km route. £140 needed initially for removable sticky labels. On Peter Oakley's advice the plan is being running it past the full council this week. There have been concerns about the number of signs going up. If temporary stickers it might be okay.

20 is Plenty campaign – Peter Wormington and HB have sent letter to the PC to their meeting this week to request their support for a 20mph limit in principle.

5. Food and Waste Group/Update

KP unable to attend tonight's CG meeting as is meeting with the food and waste group. GT has requested feedback from KP and details for online survey. **Action GT. DONE**

6. Great Big Green Week Planning

1st weekend – Biodiversity stand on the green. Dark Skies. 2x composting workshops.

2nd weekend – community walk in morning (walk to Stroud Brewery and bus back) and family friendly bike ride plus bike checks in the afternoon. 8 marshals needed – agreed to send out a request for help and ask PTA's. **Action GT.**

MinchCAN suggested spacing events so as not to clash. HB agreed to tell them what we are doing this year. **Action HB.**

Energy yet to decide what to do: we can add energy to GBGW itinerary. **Action AW.**

Once itinerary is finalised mail out. **Action GT.**

7. Newsletter

C/C newsletter – 6th May copy deadline. **Action GT DONE.**

Herald magazine will be discontinued after December.

8. Parish Council AGM

11th May 7pm – LN offered to go but is now not able to attend. AW has offered to attend and GT will also go. There was a discussion about what, if any, marketing material we should bring. It was decided that we should hand out leaflets. Leaflets to be picked up by GT. **Action GT.** Andy is looking into creating a leaflet to take too. There was a suggestion of creating a leaflet for each group. Currently there is just one generic one. Paul Lilly has resigned as Chair of PC and new chair is thought to be Emma Trinder. New clerk is Kate Arnold. Given the turnover at the PC it was thought we should make efforts to renew links and make sure they know what we are achieving. AW to introduce GT at meeting on 11th May. AW to check with CG if anyone else can attend. **Action AW.** The aim is to highlight things we are currently doing. GT happy to speak if someone can provide copy to read.

9. **Chair** Agreed to carry on as currently with role being rotated between HB, LB and JB (or others if they are able) is. The role of chair has changed as the sub committees are now all self-sufficient. Add to next month's agenda. **Action GT.**

10. Finance update

£6000 will be paid in from the PC for this year to include funds covering Administrator as this is now paid directly by ChalCAN. **Action LB.** Recent expenditure includes FFW postie mate and contribution towards surveying equipment for FFW. Money reserved for swift boxes. LB to ask JB. **Action LB.**

11. AOB

- Organise publicity for GBGW – put on the front page of the newsletter. **Action GT.**
- Merlin Sheldrake has moved into the village. HB has found someone who can ask him if he will do a talk (unlikely this will happen in time for GBGW).
- BisCAN – Stroud Film Festival – CAMINO - 4/5/23. A walk and then film showing at St. Lawrence Church at 7.30pm.
- Sport and Social Sunday Market – 14/55/23 – agreed not hold a ChalCAN.
- TK links. GT met Annie Parfitt. TK building work has started and their outside space (important and used for SEN kids and all children who need a quiet space to sit and reflect) is in limbo. Their big greenhouse has been demolished and replaced, temporarily for the next 18 months, by a very small one. They are looking for a second greenhouse. They also need help collecting plastic bottle tops to create artwork with. GT speaking with Annie Parfitt. Put a note out on FB and newsletter. Speak to Lindsay Gill about rewilding TK grounds similar to that being done at Deer Park. NB BisCAN crossover. Keep on agenda. **Action GT.**
- Bussage hedge planting. Could TK students get involved? **Action JB**

- Friends of Frith Wood PPG – Dr Nattrass could be an alternative contact to the ones GT has on the list. GT to phone and follow up. Could TK get involved? **Action GT.**

12. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 6th June at 7.30pm. HB away the week before so LB will do the agenda and chair the meeting.