**TTH MEETING – 25 Sep 2023**

**WHITE ROCK HOTEL**

Attendees: Andrea Corso, Chris Richards, Hannah Robbins, Josh Bram-Wilson, Penny Foxwell & Paul, Sarah Macbeth, Sherry Clarke

Apologies: Catherine P.

“Better Days” by Henry Normal, read by Sherry

* Suggestion to put this in the next newsletter

**ROUND OF INTRO**

Paul is available to give a hand with the admin related to taking on a more formal structure

Josh – intro to Hastings Compost Community. They are also at a place where they are thinking of taking on a more formal structure, hence their interest in hearing where TTH is going

**TTH FORMAL STRUCTURE**

* Over view of where we are at (see minutes of previous meetings and calls)
* Suggestion by Sherry that a CIC might actually be a better option than a CIO, given that it leaves more freedom to have directors that are involved in the running of projects (which has some limits in the case of a CIO)
* Transition Town Lewes has remained an constituted small group, and have set up CIC for specific projects (eg the Green Hub)
* Community Benefit Societies are co-ops, and are apparently less well known and recognised with regard to fund raising. They seem to be common in the contest of issuing shares to raise funds (eg for energy projects)
* Issue of “**cross contamination**” between projects: at the moment if one projects has issues and there are claims from a third party, the funds raised for other projects would be the first point of call to pay any creditor. This would create additional issues with all the other projects
  + Therefore a more formal way of ring-fencing individual projects may even need to be considered
* Project reporting: it’s something that we should be doing on a regular basis, to check that each project is delivering what it is supposed to do
* Synergies between projects: can we get more in terms of bid submission ? At the moment we are sharing insurance, website and social media
* CONSENSUS: we are now evaluating whether to become a CIC or a CIO. The main difference seems to be that Directors of a CIO can be involved more directly in projects, while Trustees of a CIO need to stay more at arm’s length. We need to find out whether there are any other substantial differences
  + ACTION: Sherry to check with HVA whether they can advice on this

**CHAIR OF TTH**

* Hannah has now stepped down from the rotating chair position, and we need a new chair
* Josh’s suggestion of having a monthly chair
  + Voted and agreed. Chris to be the chair for October, Sharry for November
* Should we start using more formally sociocracy principles, where all issues are put to a vote, and all concerns or objections are recorded
  + Decision that are taken are not seen as the definitive decision, but instead re-evaluated regularly, and concerns are reassessed (eg every 6 months). The aim is to come to a decision that allows for things to go forward in one form or another, so things don’t get stuck
* We may not need a chair at all – and define the agenda on the day

**UPDATE ON THE GREEN MAN PROJECT**

* A community event took place at the weekend in Churchwood Orchard
  + Chris would like to pay £100 to TTH for the rental of some of the equipment (chairs and tables, gazebo). ACTION: Andrea to raise an invoice for it
* Apple picking and pressing coming up. Chris is looking for a press for hire (Sassy is not available at the moment) #
* A bio-digestor is being set up and work should start soon
* Chris is also working with Oli’s from Lion’s Den Mushrooms
* In November there will be Day of the Dear event – focussing on ancestors, grief
* In December there will be an event focussed on Power and Conflict and Anger, the event will probably involve Band of Brothers and possibly XR
* January – the focus will be on exercise and cycling

**UPDATE ON GARDEN TOWN POTENTIAL GRANT**

* Potential to get a grant from the Hastings Garden Town in order to bring together regularly the various groups active in environmental and social issues, and support training and field trips

**NEXT DATE**

* 23rd OCTOBER
* 27th NOVEMBER
* No meeting in DECEMBER