



Quantock Eco

**Minutes of the Quantock Eco AGM held on Friday 29th April 2016
at 7.00pm at Crowcombe Church House, Crowcombe.**

1. Welcome

Quantock Eco's Chairman, Philip Comer, welcomed all those present and thanked them for their continuing support.

2. Apologies were received from Jill Goodwin, Kees and Mary ter Braak, Peter Darke, Stuart Dowding, Chris Leigh Browne, Maureen and Susan Canney, & David Croxton (arrived later)

3. The Chairman signed the 2015 minutes as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Quantock Eco's main role is to help raise awareness about environmental and sustainability issues with those who live or work in and around the Quantocks. We do this by holding events, by being present at various local events and by networking with other organisations.

Quantock Eco has been active in participating in groups such as the Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee and the Hinkley Point Community Forum. We also continue to network with other like-minded groups such as the Wivey Action on Climate, Minehead and Alcombe and Taunton Transition groups as well as Forum 21, and Friends of Quantock. There has been an initiative from some of these groups to work together to collaborate in arranging and publicising events and we are actively supporting this. We have also joined together with 10 other local groups with an interest in energy and environmental issues in the Somerset Energy and Environment Network (SEEN).

A year ago, following our 2015 AGM we held an "Environmental Hustings" with local parliamentary candidates from all the main political parties. That was a well-attended and successful event.

Other events last year included our first Apple Pressing day held in Bicknoller. A lot of people brought apples and we were busy pressing fruit and bottling the juice for most of the day. We plan to repeat this again this year. Many thanks to Kate and Andrew Harrison for helping to make that such a success.

In November we organised a Green Energy Fair in Bishop's Lydeard. With the proposed changes to the FIT (feed-in-tariff) we focussed on PV Solar and Energy advice and had three commercial alternative energy suppliers and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Unfortunately, the event was rather poorly attended.

At the turn of the year we learnt that Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences had been let for a number of blocks along the North Somerset Coast as part of the 14th Licensing round. At the same time, in December 2015, MPs had voted to allow fracking under Britain's national parks and AONBs, which include the Quantock Hills. This raised the prospect of fracking under and around the Quantocks, which was clearly a matter of serious concern to many. We put out a statement

(available on our web site) intended to present some of the key facts relating to this issue, and planned to hold a public meeting. In the event another meeting was arranged before ours was finalised and we decided to postpone ours. As far as I am aware there have been no new developments on this, and certainly no actual applications for planning permission to drill any wells. We will continue to monitor this situation.

In March QE participated in the Somerset Waste Partnership's Waste Action Day in North Petherton. This was a useful day for exchanging information and networking with other groups interested in the various aspects of waste, including food waste.

QE still has a number of on-going projects, including the Bishop's Lydeard to Taunton Cyclepath (although there has been little progress on this over the past year), and the Stowey Millenium/Jubilee Wood Project, which continues to flourish. It was noted that the Cyclepath had been included as an objective in the Bishop's Lydeard Neighbourhood Plan, which could provide funding and further impetus. Our local InQEdible Edible (QEIE) initiative was active last year and we provided at least 7 bags of food a week for the Children's Centre in Williton through the productive months. This was done by a small number of hard working volunteers and their effort was very much appreciated. Unfortunately we have not got the community engagement we had hoped for and now David Croxton is not able to continue providing the leadership on this. At present we do not have anyone else to take this on. Quantock Eco, through David Croxton, has also been supporting the West Somerset Community Land Trust and David Croxton has been elected Chairman.

We have not, as yet, planned further meetings for this year other than another Apple Pressing day. We would love to get suggestions from our members on what they would be interested in. A couple of possible ideas are something on domestic battery storage solutions, which are beginning to look more affordable and/or something on food waste. Let's hear from you what you would like.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to everyone on the Executive Committee who help to make things happen and keep Quantock Eco alive.

5. Treasurer's report

Carole wished to thank all members who had paid by Direct Debit, as these now totalled over 30. 81 Subs had been received during the period April 2015 to March 2016 = £405. Other income included £155.26 from Utilities Warehouse. Many thanks to this anonymous donor. Three events also made money - £56 from visitors to last year's AGM, a raffle at Nether Stowey Fair made £24 and refreshments and produce sold at the Apple Day netted £10.75, making a sum of £90.75. With a donation of £5, our total income was £656.01.

On the expenditure side, the largest sum was for maintenance of our web site £117. We paid a ½ share in a new printer of £100, and hire of halls for 3 events was £110. So together with the prepayment for the hire of a stall for Nether Stowey Fair, we spent £353.00.

So there is an excess of £303.01 of income over expenditure, giving us a closing balance of £1,612.91. A signed copy of the summary and the full accounts sheets are here for examination.

Many thanks to Clive Raisey for scrutinising the books, for which we show our gratitude with a bottle of wine.

6. Acceptance of the accounts was unanimous. However Julian Anderson expressed surprise that the accounts of the Cycle Path Group did not appear with the main

account. Ian Myers explained that there was a separate account for this project. Carole had asked Paul Partington for details, but disappointingly Paul was not present, had not sent in apologies or any information. Julian proposed, seconded by Roy Osborne that the accounts of the Cycle Path Group, be presented at the AGM. Carole will contact all groups holding funds in QECO's name, so we have the full picture.

7. Clive Raisey was appointed as auditor for the next year.

8. **Election of the Chairman.** Philip was re-elected as Chairman proposed by Carole Darke and seconded by Julian Anderson. Philip stated that he did not plan to stand for a further term after this year.

9. **Election of Committee.** Kate Harrison is standing down but all other members agreed to stand again. So nominated by Kate Harrison and seconded by Peter Grieg, Jill Canney, Ian Myers, Philip Comer, David Croxton, Carole Darke, Stuart Dowding, Pam Salmon and Chris Leigh-Browne were voted in en bloc, unanimously. No further volunteers came forward, to stand for committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.25p.m. Refreshments were served, including a free glass of wine, and we were joined by a few more folk for a debate on 'How Green is MY EU' which included very informative presentations from Ian Myers, Den Thorne of FWAG South West and Philip Comer, at 8p.m.

This is a true record of the QE AGM 2016

Signed.....Chairman

Date:

QE Members attending the 2016 AGM

Julian Anderson

Jill Canney

Philip Comer

David Croxton

Carole Darke

Peter & Judith Greig

Kate and Andrew Harrison

Alan Hughes

Clive Martin

Ian Myers

Adrian Norman

Roy Osborne

Owen Rush

Pamela Salmon

Tony & Pamela Serjeant