

**Transition Town Reading (TTR) Meeting, held in the Christmas Room at Great Expectations, at 7.30 pm, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.**

**Present:** Chris Rhodes (Chair), Tony Cowling, Marta Rossato (Communications Officer), Alan Clark, Karen Blakeman, Chris Burden, Montse Talavera, Nara, Costanza.

**Apologies:** Bethan Chant (Treasurer), Laura Ross Gakava (Secretary).

**(1) Welcome to new people.**

*Montse* has a background in environmental science, and food growing plots; *Nara* has a background in Env. Sci., and an allotment; *Costanza* is a landscape architect, specialising in the use of natural materials. Marta noted that there had been an increase in the number of people opening the Newsletter!

**(2) Acceptance of minutes from TTR meeting on 5-7-18 (circulated by Chris R via email, on 6-7-18) as accurate.**

These were accepted unanimously.

**(3) Bank account update (provided by Bethan).**

Pete Ruczynski, Chris R and Bethan are confirmed as bank account signatories. The TTR account is online, which both Bethan and Chris R can operate. Pete R can also operate it but **he needs to call the Co-op to activate his security token or order another one**. The “dual signatory” instruction has not yet been auctioned, meaning that either Chris or Behan can make payments from the account on their own. Laura has submitted the necessary documents to be set up as a signatory: although the Co-op “lost” them for a while, they are now treating this as a priority job! **Once sorted, one of us will set up a payment to go and another signatory will need to authorise it online before it’s made**. Hence, it is vital that we get Pete and Laura set up and online asap, otherwise were going to be stuck if either Chris or Bethan are away.

The Bank account balance is currently £5,464.77. Opening bal 1 April 2018 was £4,918.41 so it’s creeping up.

- Current project balances (approximate):
  - £812.61 General core funds (used for recent apple press parts)
  - £770.44 Draughtbusters
  - £3,679.36 Repair Cafe (includes Sept donations, not yet deposited to bank)
  - £347.78 Refill Reading (includes invoice to Nibys £100 not yet paid).

RBC paid the TTR invoice within 6 weeks, although we had feared it might take much longer...!

**(4) DraughtBusters report (Tony).**

Tony explained what DraughtBusters (DB) was about, and his many activities in it: this costs £22.00 per house, and there is enough money in the account to last until Easter. DB has links with Reading Borough Council and Reading Community Energy Society.

**(5) Reading Plastics Action report (Tony).**

Tony explained that this actually consists of 3 projects: (1) “Refuse the Straw”, which has led to a “ban” on plastic straws throughout Reading; (2) “Refill Reading”, where 18 independent coffee houses offer 25p off a cup of coffee if you bring your refill mug, and Reading University has set a 25p “tax” if you don’t bring along a refillable cup/mug; (3) “REFILL”, is a national scheme, but works in Reading as a collaborative project between the Reading Sustainability Centre and TTR. There is a Refill phone App available, and water refill points all over London. Since plastic is worth £500/tonne, there is also business interest in waste plastic bottles etc.

**(6) Recruitment of additional administrators/moderators for the TTR Facebook Group.**

Karen and (now) Montse are administrators on the TTR Facebook site, and [Pete W. has kindly agreed to become a moderator there.](#)

**(7) Also need someone to run the TTR website.**

Currently, Chris R is putting updates (mainly from Marta’s Newsletter) on the site, and Nathan(?) is updating Repair Cafe dates and venues. However, we need someone to post the minutes of TTR meetings etc. on there. [It was agreed to defer any further discussion of this until the next meeting, but meanwhile continue with BAU.](#)

**(8) Use of TTR Rotavator at Food for the Hungry garden @ Reading Rd allotments (Pete W).**

It was agreed unanimously that the rotavator could be used here, although public liability insurance aspects may need to be considered, and we should [consult Bethan about this](#). Also, to support the project, it was agreed that TTR might contribute £100-£150, although we should [consult the Treasurer \(Bethan\)](#) about this too.

**(9) Next meeting.**

It was felt that we should hold the next meeting in about 5-6 weeks time. [Chris R to send out a doodle shortly to arrange a date for this.](#)

**(10) TTR “Christmas” event?**

Chris R suggested that we hold a TTR “Christmas party”, jointly with other green groups in Reading, partly to foster collaborations etc. among us all. Tony C suggested that we book a room in RISC, possibly including a (short) film about permaculture, along the “bring food and drink to share” lines, and send out invitations

via GREN/RISC.

Chris R will approach John Booth (GREN/FoE) to try and avoid any dates which may clash seriously with other activities, then book the room (avoiding Mondays) and send out invitations.

**(11) Any other Business.**

(i) Opportunities for involvement in TTR projects.

Some practical projects are (see points 4 and 5, above): (1) Refuse the Straw, (2) Refill Reading, (3) REFILL, (4) DraughtBusters, (5) Food growing projects, (6) TTR website.

(ii) Alan C mentioned that PAWS were holding a “barn dance” shortly (28<sup>th</sup> October?), but we **need to confirm the date.**