

South Lakeland Action on Climate Change – Towards Transition

Annual General Meeting 2022
Thursday 27th April 2023

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting

Present

Trustees: Carole Wood (Chair), Angela Lovett, Chris Rowley, Alan Lovett, Duncan Pollard

Members: Claire Wickham, Anne Blackburn, Liz Hendry, Tim Maiden, Hilary Pickup, Monica Baynes, Sylvia Robertson, Henry Adams, Janet Clarke, Wendi Lethbridge, Jane Willis, Daniel Rayson, Nick Chetwood, Chuck Whitehead, Robin Bailey, Paul Woods, Daniel Rayson

Non-Members: Paula Wyldbore, Andrew Dixon, Janice Rowley,

Apologies

Brian Woodward, Sally Fleming, Jan Goodey, Craig Russell, Giles Archibald

Minutes

Duncan Pollard

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies

Carole opened the meeting, which was held virtually, welcoming all who had joined on behalf of the Trustees. She gave apologies on behalf of Sally Fleming who was not able to attend. Carole stated that our charitable status requires us to hold an AGM, and referred all to the Annual Report of accounts and activities. She reminding all present that only members are able to vote.

2. Minutes of previous AGM; Matters arising from the Minutes

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were circulated prior to the meeting and shown on screen during the meeting for review. Regarding outstanding actions, members were asked to alert Chris Rowley if they were not receiving our regular newsletters. The review of our Constitution formed a major part of the work in the last year and an update was provided later in the meeting.

There were no comments received regarding accuracy.

The Minutes were accepted with 89% voting to approve them, with 11% abstentions.

3. Presentation of Annual Report and Accounts

Carole explained that Quentin Merritt had decided to step down as a Trustee due to other work commitments. He had provided invaluable support and input as a Trustee over the last 2 years, especially in guiding SLACC through its recent review of its Constitution and legal structure. Carole asked that if anyone wishes to be involved as a Trustee to contact any of the Trustees who can explain what is involved.

A key part of our work during 2022 had been discussions around the best governance model for SLACC. The conclusion was that SLACC should change to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). An EGM had been held on 2nd February to seek approval for the change. Carole announced that approval was received from the Charities Commission on 27th April (the day of the AGM) for SLACC to become a CIO, and that the work of the Trustees will now focus on transitioning to the new organisation (see objectives below).

Lisa Kenton, our previous Membership Secretary, stepped down in 2022 after several years and we owe her our thanks for her hard work, foresight and role in establishing the robust GoCardless payment system. Matthew Smithers is our new Membership Secretary. Membership is currently 105.

Alan walked through the annual accounts. These have been transferred over to a new software which makes monitoring easier and presentation of the situation. The 2022 accounts show a lower spend than 2021 due to the low level of activity on the coalmine (see below), though we do expect that 2023 will again feature significant activity and funding for the work on the coalmine. Consequently Waste into Wellbeing dominates the activity.

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest E	Restricted funds to nearest E	Endowment funds to nearest E
B1 Cash funds	Unity Trust	13,133	39,129	-
	Cumberland	13,013	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	26,146	39,129	-
	<small>(These balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	OK	OK	OK

Andrew Dixon FCA, the Independent Examiner confirmed that he had no concerns with the accounts.

The accounts were accepted with 94% voting to approve them and 6% abstentions.

In accordance with our policy, we have concentrated on two main campaigns this year: Waste into Wellbeing and opposition to the proposed Cumbria coalmine.

Duncan highlighted the operational progress:

Waste into Wellbeing (WiW) has continued to grow, processing over 23T of food during the year, with a higher proportion being sourced locally. Paul Etherington is now our part time Food Logistics Coordinator and has developed good working relationships with local businesses. The Kendal People's Café has reopened and is currently serving 40-60 meals on

a Saturday. WiW has also experimented with various community focussed activities - cooking demonstrations, a meal prepared by a Syrian refugee now living locally, and more recently preparations of ready meals in conjunction with students from Kendal College.

WiW is currently developing plans, in conjunction with Stricklandgate House Trustees and Kendal Town Council, to create a kitchen and café space that can be used to take forward the recommendations of the Climate Jury. It will also explore the opportunity for a commercial Cargo Bike in Kendal.

Duncan thanked the numerous volunteers for support over the year for WiW, and highlighted two 'behind the scenes' roles that are needed to help on volunteer management and fundraising. Please contact Duncan if you would like to learn more.

The Coalmine campaign had a long period of inactivity whilst the Government reviewed the Planning Inspectors report and recommendations. In December the Government recommended approval of the planning application. With the generous support from several foundations and a crowdfunding effort, money was raised to allow us to challenge the decision in Court. This has now been referred to the High Court in London. Duncan highlighted the tireless work of Maggie Mason in leading this work, and of Henry Adams for his technical work on steel making and coal usage.

The Annual Report was accepted with 100% voting to approve it.

The proposed objectives for the coming year were presented as:

1. Progress transition to new CIO status, depending on outcome of our application to the Charity Commission.
2. Roll out awareness and understanding of new policies (health & safety, safeguarding, equality & diversity, code of conduct, environment)
3. Increase the participation of members and volunteers in our work.
4. Continue our campaign against the Cumbria Coalmine
5. Continue to develop Waste into Wellbeing and Kendal People's Café.
6. Work with SGH Trustees and Kendal Town Council to develop a climate change/sustainability centre. Invest in a kitchen, grow the collection of food from local businesses, improve both our carbon and wellbeing impact.

The proposed objectives were accepted with 100% voting to approve them.

4. Election of Trustees and Postholders

In line with the Constitution, Sally Fleming and Chris Rowley stepped down and offered themselves for re-election.

Sally Fleming was re-elected with 100% of the votes and no abstentions.

Chris Rowley was re-elected with 100% of the votes and no abstentions.

5. AOB

There was no other business proposed.

6. Formal Close: Carole formally closed the meeting.

Guest Speaker & Presentation on the Climate Impact of Waste into Wellbeing

Chris Rowley introduced our speaker, Tim Maiden of Small Green Business.

Tim gave a presentation on the methodology and calculation to assess the climate impact of Waste into Wellbeing.

Tim explained how he calculated an estimated direct saving of 3.1T CO₂e (ie all greenhouse gases) based upon the 23T of food rescued by WiW in 2022.

This figure was however dwarfed by the estimated indirect savings of 87T CO₂e which is associated with the embedded GHG emissions due to the production, transportation and retailing of the food. This is arguably a better measure as it is better to feed people using surplus food, rather than using that food for energy generation (the end use for most food waste).

Tim further noted that calculating the (positive) impact in terms of climate impacts alone is underestimating the wider benefits of tackling food poverty, fuel poverty (through the WiW winter warmers events), improving health and community wellbeing.

“Climate Justice is multi-tasking”: Naomi Klein. This highlighted that climate is an intersectional issue, that can't be separated from many others, and consequently is best addressed in an holistic way addressing other topics.