



Esk Valley Community Energy Group

Minutes of Meeting
 Wednesday 3rd February 2010
 Danby Village Hall, Danby

Present	Action
Geoff Banner, Neil Bye, Tom Chadwick, Ronnie Duck, Richard Evans?, Mike Ford, Mike Gilbert, Judie Holliday, Annette Hudspeth, Peter Jones, , Colin Mather, John Randles, Joan Rees, Steve Smith, Debbie Trebilco, Geoff Walker, Peter Woods	
Apologies	
Andrew Maisey, Dave Maloney	
Minutes of the last meeting	
Agreed as a true record.	
Review	
<p>Colin started the meeting with a review of current position.</p> <p>The group has now been unsuccessful with 3 funding bids, LEADER, British Gas Green Streets and most recently Department of Energy and Climate Change Low Carbon Communities Challenge.</p> <p>The DECC LCCC bid saw an assessor visiting the area from the Buildings Research Establishment who appeared to be very impressed. So far no detailed feedback has been sent. Peter Jones and Richard Gunton thanked all the members of the group who supported this application by attending and speaking at the public meeting arranged for the assessor. All the public institutions that also attended spoke favourably about the project to the assessor. The assessment visit was deemed extremely successful in terms of showing support for the project by the community and Richard Gunton reported that it was a “highlight of his career”.</p>	
Way Forward – Unstructured Discussion	
<p>Points raised in discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In future only funds which state that they are for rural development should be applied for. • The €200,000 limit on state aids has been eased to €500,000 until the end of 2010. Peter to seek clarification/confirmation of this. • Peter Bryan (lives locally) is the community buildings champion on the LEADER panel. May be good idea to approach him for advice. • Debbie along with other members of the Hydro Steering group have worked hard to realise this project and were not prepared to give up now. • Debbie has approached a utility company at a high level and is trying to obtain matched funding for the Ruswarp Hydro project. She is preparing an investment proposal to be put before it’s board in the near future. • Views were sought about applying for a loan. The majority thought this is not an option, because of the risk if the turbine should not be operational for whatever reason. • Worries were expressed that the group have “put all their eggs in one basket” because one group has concentrated on the Ruswarp Hydro project to the detriment of any other options and from now on a wider range of RE options should be pursued. • This view was generally agreed with, however Colin pointed out the need for 	PJ

<p>other “champions” to take these options forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the local parish councils should be contacted and a slot at each of their meetings should be requested to explain the groups work and different renewable options, energy saving suggestions, grants and financial incentives. • Volunteers to go to the PCs included Steve Smith, Colin Mather, Mike Ford and Peter Woods • CREP team to contact the PCS • Steve Smith volunteered to pull together information • Despite low turnouts at previous events of this kind another insulation evening was suggested, this time with commercial input so that residents would know where they could purchase draft proofing etc. • Debbie volunteered to contact some DIY retailers to see if they could attend such an event. • Neil suggested the group initiate a Transition Towns bid. <p>The group thought that the idea of Transition Towns was a very good one, and it could be involved as a part a subgroup of a TT bid, however only Annette and Neil would commit to initiating such a bid.</p>	<p>JH/PJ SS</p> <p>DT</p>
<p>Some achievements</p>	
<p>Colin wished to end the meeting on a positive note and reminded everyone of a few of the achievements so far, including the installation of ground source heat pumps at Abbeyfields, which was the result of extreme hard work on the part of a few group members, the follow-up to the insulation survey, the assistance and advice given to a local farmer to enable him to install a wind turbine and the production and distribution of monthly insulation leaflet. Peter Woods also reminded the group that a wind project was still ongoing.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	
<p>Mike pointed out that there appears to be some anomalies with the feed-in tariffs recently announced by the government with regard to heat-pumps. He will investigate and report back to the next meeting</p>	<p>MF</p>
<p>Details of next meeting</p>	
<p>Wednesday 3rd March 2010 Wednesday 7th April 2010 (tbc) In Danby Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm start</p>	<p>JH</p>