

Minutes of The Turn Lyme Green Annual General Meeting

7p.m. 21st July 2020 held via Zoom

Attendees: Grenville Barr, Kevin Benfield, Polly Benfield, Heather Britton, Susie Butter, Cheryl Campbell, Jake Causley, Michael Dower, Karen Durham-Diggins, Deb Fox, Suzy Gallina, Emma Greenwood, Alison Johnson, Jan Osbourne, Rachel Pope, Sir Ghillean Prance, Cynny Sharp, Rob Smith, Jo Smith-Oliver.

1. Welcome

Jo Smith Oliver (JSO), Turn Lyme Green Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first TLG Zoom meeting.

2. Apologies

Belinda Bawden
Paul Butter

Chris and Ann Boothroyd
Liz and Hilton Davis

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 12th March 2019

JSO asked for any comments or amendments and received approval to sign the minutes as a true and accurate account. Proposed: Deb Fox, seconded: Rob Smith. Agreed.

4. Report from the Chair

JSO read out a slightly amended version of the TLG Annual Report that had already been circulated. The changes included that most talks had had to be cancelled due to lockdown and that the planned film nights for 2020 had had to be deferred. JSO particularly thanked Polly Benfield (PB) and her team of sewing volunteers for their work on the Boomerang Bag project and Jake Causley for running the 2019 Film season at the Driftwood café. JSO also thanked the Lyme Regis Town Council, Lyme Bay Holidays, Alison Johnson and others for their contributions to our organisation.

Annual report acceptance proposed by: Cynny, seconded by Karen Durham-Diggins (KDD). Agreed.

PB thanked JSO for leading the group and all her hard work over the year.

5. Financial Report

Grenville Barr (GDB) presented the financial statement and accompanying narrative, circulated prior to the meeting. As a precursor he said that the TLG bank account also held the fund for Plastic Free Lyme Regis (PFLR), but each strand (TLG & PFLR) was reported on separately. PFLR had purchased films that will now be shown when lockdown restrictions are eased and held a stock of PFLR bags worth £600. Since lockdown there had been no events so the report reflects this. GDB thanked both the Royal Lion and the Driftwood café for their help in hosting meetings and film nights.

GDB invited any questions:

Rob Smith asked how GDB saw next year? GDB said it was unclear how activities would progress. Also as the Town Council was depleted of funds we may not receive any grant from them this year.

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Rob asked if we had a 'benchmark' reserve? GDB said not a stated one however we have managed our budget prudently and expect to be able to cover ongoing elements such as website costs. There are no outgoing costs for events as they have all been cancelled this year.

Cynny Sharp asked if there was a strategy to encourage more members? GDB said that as no meetings had been possible encouraging subscriptions had been done purely via the TLG newsletter, many members had renewed recently. Some people also gave donations at meetings. PB added that subscriptions were introduced by Chris Boothroyd, the previous treasurer to allow the group to apply for grants etc. and demonstrate a positive approach to attracting funds to support the organisation. KDD added that as the Lyme Splash event in September 2020 had been cancelled the expected £400 would not be donated to PFLR this year.

Acceptance of the Financial report proposed: JSO, seconded Rob Smith. Agreed.

6. Election of Officers – Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

JSO said that all three officers were willing to stand again this year and there had been no further nominations.

Chair: JSO, proposed by Sir Ghillean Prance, seconded by KDD. Agreed.

Treasurer: GDB, proposed by Rob Smith, seconded by Cynny Sharp. Agreed.

Secretary: PB, proposed by Deb Fox, seconded by Rob Smith. Agreed.

7. Agreement of annual membership subscription for 2020-2021

Emma Greenwood suggested a sliding scale of membership to increase membership and engage new members within the group. GDB said it would be easy to administer a sliding scale as most fees were transferred via BACS. A discussion followed on the merits of ensuring that people who didn't wish to become paying members would still feel welcome at talks and other activities.

JSO proposed a £5 annual subscription with the option of making a further donation and the introduction of a £1 membership subscription for students and unwaged.

KDD seconded. Agreed.

JSO then invited Sir Ghillean Prance (SGP), our patron since 2007, to speak.

SGP thanked JSO for reading out some of his thoughts on the rainforests. He said that he travelled widely normally yet had been in lockdown in Lyme Regis during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said that he often mentions TLG in his talks to other groups and the projects and work that TLG is involved in.

He stated that we have two emergencies, the Climate Change Crisis and the Covid -19 pandemic, and posed the question: could we use this second emergency to change the life that we go back to? The air is cleaner and as we move forward our challenge is to retain the positive benefits that we've gained during the last few months. Shopping more locally so the local economy is supported and the distance that you travel is limited. Reducing the 'food

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miles' that produce travels, and using more locally grown food, he urged us to continue to support these initiatives.

In conclusion he thanked TLG and said it had been a great pleasure and a privilege to be TLG's patron and he looked forward to the next year and how we would move forward.

JSO thanked him and asked if anyone had any questions.

Michael Dower from Beaminster said he had a comment that he was so grateful for the example TLG was setting and for the collaboration and co-operation that we offered. Michael also supported the aspiration to retain the positive things that had come out of the Covid-19 pandemic such as clean air and birdsong. Michael also said that we must consider people who had been in difficulty during the past few months. Michael finally thanked TLG and in particular PB for their comradeship and help.

PB said that she felt Michael had been an inspiration to the group and that it was wonderful to work so well together.

8. Any Other Business

KDD briefly reported on a Communications Sub-Group meeting from last week: The farmers market stalls were all sold out but she was trying to get agreement for a small table stand for TLG **let KDD know if you can help. Also we have a regular slot on Lyme Bay radio **contact KDD if you can help.

Rachel Pope raised the issue of the metal from the old tip near the allotments falling onto the beach. Contamination samples have now been taken at the allotments site. The sign at the end of East path had been turned round, she had reported this to Daryl Turner to action. KDD asked if Rachel would write a blog about the allotments, and Rachel said she would wait until she got the contamination sample results back.

GDB stated that 2 weeks ago he circulated reports of bathing water pollution to the PFLR group. Downloading the 'Safe-Seas' app. will alert you when bathing water on the front beach is contaminated. KDD said she had contacted the town council to ask where/who updated the water safety details (there is a board outside the Sailing Club).

Cynny said that the new Monmouth Pantry shop in Broad Street was selling a range of dried food on a zero waste basis and would also refill containers with washing up liquid etc.

PB said the Susie & Paul Butter were acting as the Friday delivery point in Lyme Regis for 'In My Backyard', a delivery service for food from local producers.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next TLG AGM will be held Tuesday 13th April 2021.

JSO then closed the meeting.