



GREYTON TRANSITION TOWN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Greyton Lodge, Main Road Greyton
Saturday 8th February 2014

MINUTES

Present

Nicola Vernon	Rohan Millson	Sunnye Collins
Careen Bernstein	Candice Mostert	Marshall Rinqest
Wayne Sampson	Alexander Jellen	Klaus Wehrin
Lisa Wilson	Tristram Wilson	Children Wilson x 2
Ernest Fenter	Jeanne Fenter	Marguerite King
Nanette Walker	Sue Ingram	Brian Dawes
Dianne Dawes	Andy Smith	Thandi Poole
Luis Ferriera da Silva	Lorrence Keyser	Andrea Jonas (in attendance)
Candice Jonas (in attendance)		

1. Apologies

Henriette Vlugter
Kathinka van den Griendt
John Hanks
Carol Hanks
Wray Whyte
Suzie Gordon

2. Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not present in the agenda that follows so the minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by Careen Bernstein and seconded by Sunnye Collins.

3. Presentation on the work of Greyton Transition Town during 2013 and plans for 2014.

Education

a. Eco-Crews

Sunnye Collins, Board Member, and Candice Mostert, Programme Co-Ordinator, gave a joint powerpoint presentation on the main focus of much of GTT's work – the eco-crews. Together with Greyton Conservation Society and ARK we took around 24 children to the

Cape Leopard Trust over Easter 2013 and followed up with a trip to the Two Oceans Aquarium. The response of the children led GTT to take a lead role in environmental education going forward and we now have around 80 children signed up to Eco-Crews in five of the six schools, with Greyton House joining us shortly. GTT delivers environmental projects three times a week after school and organises events such as the recent Survival Sleepover at Blue Hippo. We will be looking to raise significant funding so that we can expand this programme. We are hearing from parents and teachers that the children are more focused, caring, are behaving better and achieving better grades.

b. Communiversity. NV updated the situation regarding this education project

Communiversity is a gap year programme for school leavers which prepares them for tertiary education or employment. Marshall Rinquest was asked to provide two weeks of teaching on permaculture recently and his feedback has shaped the way we move forward with this project.

We are consulting with primary and high school teachers to define the programme according to local need and initial responses point to a need to augment maths, literacy and computer literacy in the school to raise standards prior to the pupils participating in the gap year so that they have a chance of making sufficient progress during the year to be prepared for tertiary education or meaningful employment. We will redraft our fundraising Case for Support to take into account the additional funding that will be needed and will liaise with Greyton Genadendal Education Fund. We remain hopeful that Zebra Moon Hostel will be made available to us for this purpose once the current lease terminates end May but presentations and exhortations to the Board of Governors of Uitkyk School have so far met with no response.

Waste

GTT signed a Memorandum of Agreement with TWK in June 2013 to deliver four swopshops – in Genadendal, Caledon, Riviersonderend and Villiersdorp. R400,000 was provided, less R25,000 which had already been granted for last year's Trash to Treasure Festival. With this funding we were able to employ Candice Mostert who is responsible for the programme.

This fund was augmented by sponsorship, discounts and gifts in kind and, under the terms of the MOA, GTT is allowed to divert any funding not needed for the swop shops to other waste programmes.

The first two swop shops opened in January, at Swartberg High School in Caledon and Mind Over Matter, next to Emil Weder High School in Genadendal. The final two are due to open by end April.

Other initiatives include:

- ❖ Supporting recycling entrepreneur Boetie Bantom. His business is benefiting greatly from the first two swop shops which attracted nearly 500 children and a ton of recyclable waste in the first two weeks.
- ❖ Upcycling workshops for Greyton Women's Network and Mind over Matter, led by Monique Hagan – the results of their work can be seen at Pure Café.

- ❖ Expanding the Green Park. The funding covered the cost of fencing in the Green Park at the dumpsite allowing GTT to expand the garden waste chipping and composting – and to provide a space for Greenpop to come to a wonderful event where they planted over 100 trees, 50 at Zebra Moon and 50 at Green Park. We launched our Air Miles Forest and already five people have offset their air travel carbon with new trees for us.
- ❖ Bokashi composting service – free for restaurants and accommodation establishments.
- ❖ Eco-Bricks – thousands have been stuffed and we are starting to pilot the first eco-brick building in South Africa at the Green Park with eco-crew members taking part in the construction.
- ❖ Trash to Treasure. This is happening in April this year (and post AGM I can announce it will be April 12th!).

Food Security

The Incredible Edible has seen a number of achievements:

- ❖ Two girls from Emil Weder, Nokwazi Ndlovu and Carly Williams, were funded by GTT to attend a permaculture leadership course at Oranjezicht City Farm. On their return Nokwazi motivated for a member of her community to give her free loan of a piece of land so she could start a community garden.
- ❖ Marshall Rinqest was part funded to attend a permaculture course at Bergen-Dal. Rohan Millson funded himself to attend.
- ❖ The table at Via's continues to shine with around 18 – 20 regular customers buying and exchanging around R1500 worth of organic vegetables every week. Ultimately this table should be moved to Pure Café as that is the home of GTT. We will publicise this in advance so that we don't lose customers.
- ❖ David Golding of Abalimi Bezakhaya came to chat to the farmers co-operative that farm the fields between Greyton and Genadendal. With constant encouragement from GTT and a great deal of effort and commitment from them they are now no longer using non-organic pesticides and herbicides. They regularly supply the Wednesday table.

Renewable Energy

Brian Dawes, who heads the Renewable Energy sub-group, submitted his report which is attached to these minutes.

Housing

GTT has ambitious plans to create an eco-village of mixed use housing at the entrance to the village. This land was part of the agreement the Greyton House School made with TWK in their bid for land on which to build a High School. Provision was made for gap housing but the community advised that the pressing need is for RDP housing. The community are aware this land has been allocated and the promise must be fulfilled.

The opportunity exists to create something very special and GTT, with community representatives, has visited Lyne Doch, the sustainable village at Stellenbosch. Two

students from the Netherlands are doing their internship with GTT to help formulate plans for a fully integrated sustainable eco-village on the land which lies just before the road down to the Green Park/Dumpsite on the right at the entrance to the village (coming from the N2). Because of its position, the eco-village must be a model of integration, aesthetically pleasing and completely sustainable so that it does not add a burden to the already overtaxed infrastructure. The ultimate residents will help to design and build their homes, with professional support. This will keep costs down, ensure that the village is well maintained and that all residents are committed to making it a success. In addition to the Netherlands students we are receiving pro bono advice and support from Sarah Patterson of Jakopa Architects in Cape Town. Sarah is a highly skilled urban designer.

On the same note we are working to win the support of the community by showing that GTT does not indulge in meetings, marches and rhetoric – it just does! Riaan Strydom has been on the housing register for a long time, he lives in a shack and he has the respect of much of the community for the work he does supporting young people away from a life of crime. With great support, input and expertise from Greyton based architect Luis Ferriera da Silva and his partner Lorrence Keyser, Riaan has designed his new house which will have a slightly larger footprint than the average RDP house but will cost around the same to build. Tony Davidson has donated engineering advice and a QS friend of Luis and Lorrence is donating his services to cost the project.

Global – website, interns, other transition towns

GTT's website, www.greytontransition.co.za is a great success, attracting interest and queries from all over the world. Three families have recently moved to Greyton after seeing the website and finding that we are a transition town – they have volunteered to help and be involved. We also welcome to the meeting Andrea Jonas and her daughter Candice who are setting up Transition Town Swellendam. We continue to support the TWK Green Forum – which is growing organically as more and more people become aware of the opportunities offered by the transition style approach to sustainability.

Pure Greyton

GTT has now taken two units – Pure Café at number 3 Greyt Oak Centre and Pure Home at number 5. Pure Home is the space where we sell the environmentally friendly cleaning products - which are doing very well. The shop is managed by Greyton Property Management Services under owner Sarie Jumat who are now based there and who will be paying the rent.

Pure Café is now sustainable, supporting itself and doing well thanks to the commitment, energy, enthusiasm and skills of new owner Thandi Poole. Thandi has worked at healthy eating centres and has a lot of knowledge, not only about cooking great food but also about catering for different health needs and conditions.

Future Events

A number of opportunities are presenting themselves. Two people from Hermanus who have skills in IT, accountancy and business management, are keen to set up a local currency in Hermanus by creating a local platform accessed by mobile phones. As Hermanus is somewhat large they would like to run a pilot in Greyton. We are exploring

this outstanding idea as the platform can not only be used for trading and bartering but also as a skills bank. Not everybody has facebook but nearly everybody has a mobile phone and information can be passed around to the whole community about work opportunities, recommended craftsmen and women etc etc.

We are also aiming to work towards becoming the first plastic shopping bag free town in South Africa – the Two Oceans Aquarium is supporting their Campaign Director, Hayley McLellan of Rethink the Bag, to guide Greyton along this process.

A biochar machine will shortly be set up at the Green Park to burn some of the mountains of waste that are too small for the chipper – without causing fumes, smoke or distress to anybody living close by and at the same time creating a black gold compost which will be available to buy.

Fundraising

Now that this AGM has taken place we will have two years of accounts and will be able to apply for funding to funders such as Lotto.

4. Treasurer's Report

Rohan Millson presented the accounts produced by G & J Konsultante in Caledon which are attached to these minutes and copies of which were circulated, together with a version set out in the way UK charities are required to present accounts – which gives a much clearer picture. RM pointed out that the charity is healthy financially although our incomings and outgoings are still relatively small as one would expect with a new charity. Brian Dawes asked why only just over R200,000 appeared in the accounts as income from IDC for the swop shops when R375,000 was allocated. RM responded that the funding is spread over two financial years and R175,000 remains to be spent but has all been accounted for having been allocated to Riviersonderend and Villiersdorp swopshops and to the 3rd Annual Trash to Treasure Festival scheduled for April.

5. The Election of Members to serve on the Board for the following year.

During the year many of the founder members reported that they would either resign before the AGM or not offer themselves for re-election in order to make way for the right individuals to take the charity forward, and to bring in more diversity so all communities are represented. Liezel Mostert has had a baby and needs to stand down in any case, Anel Mostert has family pressures. Karen Thorne lives in Cape Town and is a weekender so is not able to commit the time, Sue Ingram is moving to Zimbabwe, Gillian Kingston is now in charge of U3A and no longer has the time. In their place we co-opted Wray Whyte who has made a considerable commitment as a volunteer over the past 12 months, helping GTT to identify eco-friendly cleaning products to supply to the village and also helping local people start a small eco furniture business from alien vegetation. We also co-opted Bradley Taylor who represents the homeless in his immediate community and will help us move on with our plans for an eco-village. Sunnye Collins came on board with her environmental education experience and has been helping set up the eco-crew programme and Careen Bernstein was co-opted because of her considerable help with introducing arts programmes and helping us find high end waste for the swop shops. Because of his exceptional commitment to voluntary work for GTT, Marshall Rinquist was also co-opted. However,

during the year Wray Whyte unexpectedly needed to move to Cape Town as did Bradley Taylor. Nicky Vernon (Chairperson), Rohan Millson (Treasurer) offered to stand for another year and Sunnye Collins, Careen Bernstein and Marshall Rinqest are all prepared to be made full members of the board. Alexander Jellen, deputy Head of LR Schmidt offered to stand for election. These changes were proposed by Rohan Millson and seconded by Nicola Vernon. The members unanimously agreed to accept the applications of Careen Bernstein, Sunnye Collins, Marshall Rinqest and Alexander Jellen as new board members. Nicola Vernon proposed that Marshall Rinqest be vice-chairman and this was seconded by Sunnye Collins. Rohan Millson proposed that Careen Bernstein be secretary and this was seconded by Marshall Rinqest.

NV advised that she would still like to see somebody come forward to take over the treasurer role (this being ably managed by Rohan Millson in a caretaker capacity at present) and is also looking for a chairman of GTT as this would add accountability. At present NV is both Director and Chairman which is not ideal as well as jolly hard work.

6. Any Other Business

Andy Smith asked about sewage as there are pressing issues in Greyton on this matter. NV said she would take it up with TWK to find out the current status. Some experts have offered to come and help clean up our sewage pools in the area so she will look into this too and report back.

There being no further business the Chairman called the meeting to a close and thanked everybody for coming, most particularly the Board, both past members and present, for their outstanding commitment and service throughout the year. She also thanked those members of the GTT who have been sponsoring, supporting, encouraging and adopting our programmes with enthusiasm – they make it all worthwhile. The next AGM will be scheduled in February 2015.

Founder Member of:



TWK Municipality
110% Green Forum

A Flagship Project of:

