

Meeting: Congleton Sustainability Group

Date: 17.01.2022 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Zoom

In attendance: Heather Seddon, Cathy Dean, Jackie MacArthur, Glen Williams, Ray King, Ruth Benson, Linda Aston, Kay Wesley, Barry Fox, Jackie Kay, Murray George, Peter Aston.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u> Heather chaired the meeting; attendees gave a quick introduction to the group.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Patti Pinto, Margaret Gartside, Peter Hall, Adam Linnet, Matt Axford.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</u></p> <p>The draft CSG constitution agreed at the previous meeting was sent to members for consideration, a couple of comments were received, one being creating standing orders for each CSG role, but the group felt it was getting too complicated and not needed. The second comment regarding behaviours was not adopted as it was thought the original wording was clearer, so no further changes were made to the constitution.</p> <p>Peter suggested letting the constitution sit for a while, no need to rush into formalising them. An AGM can be called later in the year where the constitution can be formally adopted. Please see attached the CSG Constitution v0.4 which is the most current draft.</p> <p>The CSG membership form was accepted, see attached; **can all members please fill out this form and return it to Cathy (cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk) and Heather (heather.seddon2@btinternet.com). Many Thanks.**</p>	<p>ALL</p>

4.	<p>Approval of the Agenda. Yes</p>	
5.	<p>Time / Dates for meetings</p> <p>It was agreed that meetings should be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm</p> <p>(As more people join we can look to review)</p>	
6.	<p>Finances</p> <p>CSG has its own account with CO-OP bank.</p> <p>CSG has no income, the account was set up for the profits from the apple juice project which has now been incorporated into the Old Saw Mill.</p> <p>The grant monies that held in the account are for specific projects, mainly raised by Patti and should not be seen as ‘CSG money’. Many projects have been delayed due to covid but the grant money will be spent as the projects are completed.</p> <p>The current balance after the grants have been spent is £708.02 – there are general admin costs associated with running CSG</p> <p>The Partnership uses the Town Council a/c to operate through, what is the mechanism that decides where CSG grant monies are paid? There are advantages to using the TC a/cs i.e. claim the VAT back / the accounts are fully audited etc</p> <p>Will the William Dean Trust pay direct into the town council a/c?</p> <p>It was agreed in the first instance to use the TC a/cs. CSG may need its own a/c to access certain grants, if that’s not the case in the future we could wind down the a/c but this can be monitored going forward.</p>	<p>Patti/ Heather</p>

	<p>Any purchases on behalf of CSG must go through Cathy to raise a Purchase Order (if using the Town Council accounts to hold grant money), please note no invoices will be paid without one.</p> <p>£100 approval limit for the Chair to authorize (from the CSG CO-OP Account for general expenses) – this does not include expenses which Patti can spend from the grant monies which are in the CO-OP account ring-fenced for specific projects. Any spend above £100 for general expenses should be discussed as a group.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>Heather, Patti & Cathy to be admins on the Facebook pages.</p> <p>Cathy will review CSG groups and pages</p> <p>Group reports to be added onto the minutes – it was agreed that there should be a standard form to keep things consistent</p> <p>Volunteer hours to be recorded to demonstrate the value</p>	<p>Cathy</p> <p>Cathy/ Heather</p>
8.	<p><u>Inclusion / Attracting new members</u></p> <p>Lots of interest in climate change/carbon neutral – CSG needs to be front and centre in the conversation.</p> <p>Brainstorm of ideas: Regular communication, speakers. Target specifically – younger demographic? Ethnic diversity, setting up in different communities, conversations, gazebo, different groups, school fayres, Flyers, Survey monkey, TikTok, Instagram, Newsletter.</p> <p>Distribution list to be reviewed</p>	<p>Peter / Heather</p>

Reflections on the past / Aspiration for the Future

Heather reflected on past group members and the great work that has been done, the group needs to decide on future aspirations and goals.

The Partnership is in the process of reviewing the vision & objectives.

AOB.

Maintaining links with East Cheshire Climate Alliance is vital for CSG

Next Meeting Tue 1 March 2022, 6:30 pm via zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85472801145?pwd=ZGF6Y2dkWkRwa0dOWjJDQUERUJqUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7280 1145

Passcode: 748390

Peter

Group Reports:

Please support:

Congleton Repair Café

****Congleton's first Repair Café will be at The Old Saw Mill on Saturday 29 Jan 22, from 10 am to 2 pm****

- Our first event! BE THERE TO REPAIR.
- We are Congleton Repair Cafe - a volunteer ran, monthly, FREE event held at The Old Sawmill on Back River St.
- Bring us your broken toasters, lamps, jeans, picture frames, chairs, teacake stands and the rest, our volunteers will repair your possessions and teach you in the process!
- Our expertise is in:
 - Simple electrical appliances
 - Furniture
 - Bicycles
 - Clothing and materials
 - Clocks
- ONE ITEM PER-PERSON.
- All repairs will take place on the first floor, excluding bicycles - items therefore must be carriable up a flight of stairs.
- IMPORTANT: Unfortunately, we will not be accepting complicated electronic equipment, such as smart phones, laptops or televisions, and do not advise bringing fragile antiques for restoration.
- Please send us a message in advance if you are unsure whether your item fits the above categories, or you would like to bring more than one item. Please include an image of the item and what the issue is.
- If we cannot repair your item on the day, advice will be given as to how best to fix it in the future, or where to take it. Arrangements may also be available for out of hours repair and collection on a case-by-case basis.
- Though this is a free service - donations are welcome! Feel free to "pay as you feel", as all donations will go back into improving our events.
- Thank you, we hope to see you there!

Rep: Ben Casey, [Congleton Repair Café | Facebook](#)

Congleton Food4Free during Jul-Dec 2021

1. As with the rest of the country, Covid restrictions have curtailed work.

2. Planted areas:

Continued to maintain (weed, feed, litter pick, prune, plant, sow) our plots and gardens, with most time spent on our Capitol Walk garden of perennial edibles/plants for pollinators, and a very small amount of time on the library shrubberies that we replanted in Nov 2019 for pollinators.

The Capitol Walk arcade was sold earlier in the year, and the premises include our garden area. The new owners (who have renamed the building Capital Walk) allowed us to continue gardening but will soon be ready to start working on the site. Thanks to Cllr Russell Chadwick acting as an intermediary, they will work with us to incorporate as much of our existing planting into their scheme as possible. They expect to finalise their plan in Jan, intending to retain the two trees, plus some planting around the edge, adding decking for access and seating in the central area, plus planters that can accommodate some of the displaced plants.

3. Publicity:

Facebook interaction continued when there are photos, videos and news items regarding our group's activities and planted areas. See <https://www.facebook.com/CongletonFood4Free/>

4. Accounts

Our 20-21 accounting year ended on 30 June. No-one has volunteered to produce our year-end income/expenses and balance sheet. However, as usual, our other records are available for inspection by appointment.

5. Volunteering hours for all members (except PP whose hours are in her monthly report to CSG)

VS: 4 hrs (maintenance of Cap Walk and library areas)

Rep: Val Scaresbrook, [Congleton Food4Free | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CongletonFood4Free/)

Plastic Free Congleton

The next Plastic Action Group is scheduled for **Wednesday 26 Jan 22, 7:30pm** via zoom.

Topic: Plastic Action Group - Plastic Free Congleton

Time: Jan 26, 2022 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://astrazeneca.zoom.us/j/7952949624?pwd=SldNdGdOb3dlbDhhQ280OUxEaWViUT09>

Meeting ID: 795 294 9624

Password: 779591

The group are hoping that 2022 will be the year that Congleton becomes an official Plastic Free Community!

15 more community spaces are required to become 'community allies' and remove at least 3 items of single-use plastic from their premises to complete the scheme. A community space is a school, place of worship, scout hut, community café, etc. If your community space would like to sign up, please do get in touch 😊

Heather has been approached by Wythenshawe WI to give a short talk about the group and how to reduce/avoid single-use plastics in February. Heather has also arranged to give a short talk to the Congleton West Rangers in March, alongside the students who are leading the plastic free school scheme from Eaton Bank Academy.

All new volunteers are always welcome, so please do join us if you can!

Rep: Heather Seddon, heather.seddon2@btinternet.com, [Plastic Free Congleton | Facebook](#)

Congleton Walking and Cycling Group

The next Walking and Cycling Group meeting is scheduled for **Thur 3 Feb 22, 7:00pm** via zoom.

Topic: Congleton Walking and Cycling

Time: Feb 3, 2022 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93558681346?pwd=OWRDSDIzTytyTzJPSW5QRjd1eGVzdz09>

Meeting ID: 935 5868 1346

Passcode: 166040

Rep: Ray King, ray@m1rek.co.uk

Trees For Congleton

Please look out for the **next volunteering dates for tree and hedge planting in Congleton! **Coming Soon!****

Rep: Ruth Benson, see the Trees for Congleton Facebook page [Trees for Congleton | Facebook](#)

Congleton Climate Action Group

The next Congleton Climate Action Group meeting is scheduled for **Tues 25 Jan 22, 6:30pm – 8:30 pm** at Congleton United Reformed Church, Antrobus Street, Congleton.

Rep: Jackie Kay, [Congleton Climate Action Group | Facebook](#)

The Old Saw Mill

Please support The Old Saw Mill, Back River Street, Congleton – this community space serve lovely hot meals and have a fantastic selection of cakes, etc., as well as being the home of Congleton’s own apple juice, cider etc.

Rep: Peter Aston, see The Old Saw Mill Facebook page [The Old Saw Mill | Facebook](#)
