

Partneriaeth Eco Dyffryn **Dyfi** Eco Valley Partnership t/a **ecodyfi**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 2005 at Machynlleth Bowling Club

Members present: Ann and Ian Mitchell, Shelagh Hourahane, Paul Allen, Alun Jones, Brian Kelly, Pat Hellen, Marit Olsson, Ellen ap Gwynn, Mark Hebden, Nick Smyth, Aled Griffiths, Martin Ashby, Ursula Byrne, Ann Bottrill, Jonathan Hill, Guy Pargeter (Taliesin Communications), Will Lloyd Williams, Allan Wynne Jones, John Edwards, John Harrison, Nicola Burgess, Doreen Haggar, David Thorpe (Cyberium), Zoe Savvidou, Jackie Hassan (Borth Community Council), Diane Jones, Andy Rowland, Teresa Walters, Tom O'Kane, Ann MacGarry, Charles Arch, Peter Jones, Jan Morgan, Roy Bamford, Mary Southwell, Ruth Stevenson, Anna Sistern

Also present: Derek Turner, Simon Thomas, Roger Haggar

Apologies: Buddug Williams (WDA), Carol Handcock, Nat Taplin, Nicola Dunkley, Kestrel Maranta, Richard Withers, Cllr. J Michael Williams, David H Jones, Susan Morley (PAVO), Michael Bunney, Maritsa Kelly, John Roberts (Mawddwy Community Council), Chris Fuller, John Harrington (PAVO), Richard Gott (Pixel Foundry), Gill Jones

1. The minutes of the AGM held on 28th June 2004 were approved: proposed by Nick Smyth and Paul Allen
2. Martin Ashby presented the Directors Report in the Annual Review for 2004, making the following additional points:
 - Ecodyfi is pleased to have been working on village-level projects such as at Ceinws, where the consultation process about the Heulfryn site led to the formation of a new community group working to develop the site.
 - This illustrates the way our broader agenda for community regeneration has taken root, adding to our earlier experience of bringing economy and environment together in projects such as renewable energy.
3. Andy Rowland and Marit Olsson presented the Annual Accounts for the period 1/4/2004 to 31/3/2005. These were accepted, with Paul Allen and Charles Arch proposing. A mistake in the Directors Report will be corrected: Nicola Dunkley had resigned during the period, not Nick Smyth (as shown).
4. Five of the six Board members who had resigned at the end of their term offered themselves for re-election. The exception was Charles Arch, who was thanked for his contribution to the group, particularly in relation to horticulture and the Biosphere Reserve Conference. Three other members had offered

themselves for election, so a ballot was held to choose 6 Directors from the 8 candidates.

The voluntary Directors are:

- Powys: Aled Griffiths, Gill Jones, Martin Ashby, Peter Jones
- Gwynedd: Paul Allen, Marit Olsson, Nick Smyth, Ruth Owen, Diane Jones
- Ceredigion: Ursula Byrne, Nicola Dunkley, Guy Pargeter, Ellen ap Gwynn, Jonathan Hill

The three staff had been co-opted onto the Board for a further one-year term at the Board meeting held earlier in the evening.

5. The meeting closed at 8.15 and was followed by a Members' Forum. The main points were as follows:
 - a) Ann MacGarry presented the Ecological Footprint tool for monitoring our impact on the planet, measured in the number of global hectares required to support our lifestyles. Useful websites include <http://www.walesfootprint.org/> <http://www.wwf.org.uk/researcher/issues/footprint/index.asp> and <http://www.ecofoot.org/> (a personal calculator). The large footprint of meat was discussed: the methodology probably assumes lowland livestock fed on imported protein – it would be interesting to know whether the Gwynedd study had varied this to reflect Welsh hill farming practice. Ecodyfi and CAT are discussing with WWF how to use this tool locally.
 - b) Teresa Walters explained how the new Climach-x mountain biking trail is bringing new business to places like the Braich Goch Bunkhouse at Corris and given local enthusiasts the confidence to open a bunkhouse and second bike shop in Machynlleth. This European-funded project, carried out by Dyfi Mountain Biking with ecodyfi support, has already created 6 jobs in local accommodation, catering and specialist services. Ecodyfi is seeking funds to follow this up with a training programme in trail-building skills that will create a small extension to the route.
 - c) Simon Thomas praised the group for getting local people involved in global issues such as climate change. He urged members not to fall into the trap of doing nothing just because the problem seems so big. He suggested using our consumer power to pressure big business, our vote to pressure Government and our voice to educate each other. He argued for an aviation fuel tax and for more tax incentives favouring fuel-efficient vehicles. Referring to the local legend of Cantre'r Gwaelod, he said we are all watch-keepers against the flood.