

**Summary of decisions reached at  
Exeter Eco-community Project meeting  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**Exeter Eco-community project**



**Present:** Chris (**Chair**), Cally, Diana, Andrew, Mitch (**Minutes**), Sue  
**Apologies,** Andy (withdrawn from the group)

**Membership:**

Sue's draft paper discussed as possible outline for membership policy. Policy to be as simple as possible with reference to allied vision, value and mission statements. Language to reflect the positives of community membership. **AGREED:** this discussion is important and should continue in future meetings with a time limited slot for membership discussion as a regular agenda item.

**Aim:** to establish a confident policy that meets the needs of the community and potential new members.

Initial discussion points regarding membership:

Membership process agreed to include fixed visits and probationary period (length of visits/probation to be discussed at later meeting, but using established communities experience as a guide.)

AGREED membership policy is important to:

- Protect all parties
- Prevent wrong choices
- Ensure potential members are aligned with community values/mission statement.
- Maintain health and focus of the community

Brainstorming on the issues and questions surrounding membership and which need to be resolved included the following;

- Partners,
- Children,
- Pets,
- Time commitment to the community,
- Health issues
- Changing circumstances
- Sharing history/issues
- Impact criteria
- Acceptable standards & behaviour.

The community will fully comply with equal opportunities. Chris to bring a copy of work equal opps policy.

**Constitution**

Final version of constitution agreed, adopted and signed by each member.

Signed copy to each member and community handbook. (Mitch handbook custodian).

Andrew to post an unsigned copy to the website.

Further copy given to Sue for setting-up community bank account.

Company constitution will be drafted for future meeting by Diana.

**Bank Account**

It was **AGREED:**

- A community bank account will be opened with **The Cooperative Bank Plc.**
- The account name will be **Exeter Eco-Community Project.**
- Each member has a year from the start of membership to contribute their share of set-up costs.
- Set-up costs agreed at £500 per person either as a lump sum or an initial £100 followed by 11 equal payments of £36.36.
- The year to full payment was agreed to March 2009 for existing members.
- Sue will act as Treasurer

- All members' are signatures to the account. Three signatories will be required for any transaction (as opposed to the usual two in order to avoid possible conflict of interests and potential for fraud).
- Previously agreed Draft Business plan (August 2007 see 'The Story so Far') to reflect amendments before submission to bank for account.
- Diana will submit re-worked business plan for the future.
- Direct Debit mandate to the bank accepted by all existing members
- Bank account application completed and signed by all members
- Company Secretaries are Andrew and Chris

### **Shillingford St George site**

Clarification needed on the following points:

Outline or Full Planning Permission?

Options for acquiring/leasing, 'using' the land adjacent to the property and elsewhere in the near vicinity?

If able to acquire/lease or 'use' land adjacent – how much?

What legal framework would 'using' the land utilise?

Water course - access/ rights and boundary details required?

Large barn/out-buildings planning status clarification?

Is £400,000, as previously mentioned, for the whole site or a proportion?