

**Summary of decisions reached at  
Exeter Ecocommunity Project meeting  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**Exeter Ecocommunity project**



**Present:** Chris (Chair), Cally, Diana, Andrew  
**Apologies:** Mitch, Sue G, Andy

**Matters arising:**

Cally gave an account of her visit to a potential community site in Shillingford St George. Main issues: site is two acres, exciting potential for new build; site needs to be decontaminated, planning permission needed to convert large barn and its not known if all of existing footprint could be built on.

**Values**

Draft Values statement was shared based on the agreed key words agreed at last meeting: Vitality Sharing Integrity Simplicity Openness/trust Respect

Exeter Ecocommunity is an intentional community of like minded people committed to sharing our skills, knowledge, talents and resources.

In a spirit of openness, trust, respect and integrity members share their hopes, fears, joys and sorrows about community life.

We live in a community that demonstrates vitality, whilst embracing simplicity; we seek to live lightly on the land; work together to reduce our environmental impact but have fun getting there!

Those present **AGREED** that this should be considered as a starting point for a mission statement and is likely to change/evolve over time.

**Community handbook**

The group agreed that the idea of developing a community handbook of policies and our decisions as we go along should be undertaken, perhaps based on 'the story so far' document. The vision and values statements should be included and it was suggested that the web summaries might be used to draw info from as these focus on decisions made. It was **AGREED** that Mitch should take on the drafting of the handbook.

**Shadow constitution**

The shadow constitution was discussed paragraph by paragraph. It was noted that the purpose of this document is to provide a framework leading up to the establishment of a 'proper' company to take on the ownership and running of the community and the association will then be dissolved at this point. A number of amendments were made.

As a result of the discussion a number of issues were identified which should be picked up in later discussion about leases and the company constitution:

- Who may be directors of the company?
- What about children under 18 years of age as members or directors?
- If a member dies is a membership/ and or property transferable (or should it be the lease)?
- Can people who are not a member live in the community?
- How to incorporate partners/family of members?
- What rules/expectations will there be of members?

**Financial**

Bank account: The following resolutions were **AGREED**:

- a. That a bank account be set up with the Co-operative Bank on behalf of Exeter Eco-Community Project in order to pursue the aims of the association. That Sue act as treasurer and be empowered to set up the account on the association's behalf.
- b. That a minimum of two members of the association be authorised to sign cheques and other authorisations on behalf of, on the instruction only, of a meeting of the members.

**Contributions**

The financial paper was discussed and it was **AGREED** that a £500 per person 'membership fee' be made by March 2009 on the terms agreed in the paper. This was less than the proposed amount in the paper and it was noted that more might be required at a later date. It was suggested that the amount be paid either as a lump sum or £100 lump sum and then the balance paid by monthly direct debit.

**New members**

It was **AGREED** that between now and August people wanting to join the group should be invited to join the group as observes before applying to become members.

**Property assessment – community criteria**

Andrew explained the background to the property/site criteria list he had drawn up emphasising that the checklist was based on the vision agreed by all members. It was agreed that a good trial run for using this checklist would be the Shillingford St George site.