

Minutes of the Sustainable Swaledale Core Group (SSCG) AGM
Thursday 4th February 2021 7.30 pm, Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendance: - Adam, Stacey, Rob, Margaret, Olivia, Sam, Rachel, Alison, Mike, Adele

Apologies for Absence: - Anne

2. Minutes of previous AGM on 6th February 2020 were approved by all

3. Chairman's Report

Adam presented his chairman's report which had been previously distributed with the agenda. He drew attention to the very productive year that we had achieved as a group despite the impact of all the restrictions that Covid had caused.

Mike expressed the unfortunate consequence of distance meeting impacting on the important input from previously engaged members. Rob suggested that there would be the opportunity to re-engage with previous members when outdoor events are permitted. Making moves to engage proactively and rigorously by circulating the minutes of our meetings will also connect us with a wider audience.

Alison proposed making the opportunity to become full members more visible through the Facebook pages. Rachel suggested for those who are less inclined to be web-based, using the gazette and newsletter to draw in more members.

4. Treasurer's Report

Rob presented his treasurer's report which had also been distributed with the agenda. (see attached) Rob confirmed a loss in the year of £18.19 and that our account had a current balance of £208.17. He confirmed that we had enough funds to cover the annual website hosting costs of £60. No further licence costs are payable.

5. Constitution

The constitution agreed at the SSCG meeting in November 2019 was readopted with no amendments.

6. Election of Chairperson

Adam was willing to stand again as chairperson and was duly proposed by Mike and seconded by Adele.

7. Election of Treasurer

Rob was willing to continue in his role and was proposed by Adam and seconded by Mike.

8. Election of Secretary

Adele was willing to continue in the role and was proposed by Adam and seconded by Rob.

7. Membership

We had a core group of fully paid-up members of 15 in 2020 with a nominal membership fee of £5 giving members the right to vote on resolutions. It was agreed by all to continue with the same arrangements without the necessity to complete a membership form annually.

8. AOB

Mike expressed his thanks on our behalf to Margaret for her continued work on the excellent newsletter and gazette articles.

Adele Sparrow 5/02/2020

Sustainable Swaledale Chair's report - February 2021

When we gathered (in person!) for the February 2020 Sustainable Swaledale AGM, we could scarcely have predicted the tumultuous year that lay ahead, and the acute personal challenges and stresses would affect every one of us.

But not even Covid managed to bury the growing public concerns over the climate crisis. And whilst international progress towards a creating a more sustainable world continues to be very patchy, it feels as though we are finally starting to edge in the right direction.

Given this context, it is therefore all the more humbling both how much time and energy our members have managed to invest in progressing the local sustainability agenda. Despite all of the challenges, we have made some really positive progress, and all without us ever actually breathing the same air!

A brief (and non-exhaustive) rundown of our activities this year:

- We engaged with the planning process, focussing on issues of importance to the civic and environmental sustainability agenda, both at a local and national level.

- We partnered with other local environmental groups to form the ‘Richmondshire Coalition of Climate Change Interested Parties’ and used this combined influence to hold RDC to their climate change commitments.
- We set in motion plans to enhance the wildflower cover in Swaledale, in partnership with other local agencies.
- We became the Swaledale coordinators for the ‘Together for Trees’ local community-based tree-planting project, in partnership with the YDMT.
- We continued to promote our activities and share environmental stories of interest with the local community via newsletter, Facebook, Reeth gazette and website.
- We established a new community garden at the Reeth surgery, and produced a range of fresh produce for anyone to consume.
- We promoted the use of local produce by publishing favourite recipes and producing a ‘local food map’.
- And planned a couple of activities that are currently postponed due to Covid:
 - The long-planned tree-guard litter-pick in Rowleth Wood.
 - The winter 2020 series of public talks on a sustainability theme, for which we had a very promising series of speakers lined up.

By any measure, this is an amazing set of achievements. Well done everyone, and let’s look ahead to an even more productive (and hopefully much easier!) 2021.

- Adam Bradley

Sustainable Swaledale – Treasurer’s Report 01/02/2021

Income for the year to 31/01/2021 has been £939.93. Expenditure has been £902.12. The major part of both has been related to the Incredible Edible project which was made possible by a grant of £950 from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Sustainable Development Fund.

We have liabilities of £56.00 relating to the completion of the Incredible Edible project, meaning that we have a net loss on the year of £18.19. Our b/f balance from last year was £226.36 giving an overall balance of £208.17 (allowing for liabilities), with a current a/c balance of £216.02 and £48.15 cash.

Given the broad suspension of activities resulting from Covid lockdown, there is little scope for interpretation of the year's financial performance other than to say we remain solvent.

Rob Macdonald

Treasurer