



Sustainable Arnside **Minutes – 17th Jul 2025 at 1930hrs**

Meeting held at Arnside Educational Institute (EI), on Church Hill

1. **Welcome from HT** - present: Rachel Dutfield, Janet Talbot, Cath Grayson, Helen Thompson, Claire Philpott, Mary Hamilton, Viv Mautner, Liz Bolton, Phil Charnley and Angela Jones.
2. **Apologies and Minutes of meeting 15th May 25.** - Apologies were received from Janet Hargreaves, Helen Chaffey, Stephen Thompson, Tim Tranter, Alistair McKinnon, Bill Grayson, Paul Bates, Michelle Bates, Sue Weldon, Martin Metcalfe, Nick Pearce, Alison Sandford, Steve Porter and David Humphreys. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.
3. **The Arnside Big Green Well-being Week** – The committee for the event have had a fruitful discussion about **what we feel went well** and what would be **done differently** another time.
 - We feel the event **achieved what we wanted** which was to **raise the profile** of Sustainable Arnside in the village. Although it is hard to measure, based on the number of people who attended or who were involved, we can **feel more confident** about our presence in Arnside. We also know that all households received a leaflet with the details of our group, website etc, clearly defined.
 - There was a great **feeling of community** on Saturday the 14th, a great atmosphere in the WI with everyone buzzing about and enjoying themselves.
 - **The committee wishes to thank everyone and anyone** who took part in any way, we are a team together and we worked together.
 - **The website was extremely helpful** for passing on information and selling tickets. The people who got it in working order, in time for the event were Dan Lucy-Lloyd and Alistair McKinnon. They've done a very **professional job** and have given SA the foundation of something big to build on. A special thanks here. The **important work** we intend to do for the village shouldn't be underestimated and can't be done without a website. It is going to be **the most important tool** we have when lowering the carbon footprint of Arnside and making a difference with climate change.
 - We will be sending out **feedback forms** to all the groups and organisations who took part. We can, on the same form, ask them for a **pledge** to make a change, small or large, that might help lower their carbon output. We will also ask their permission to put their pledge onto our website.
 - We were aware that there were problems at the EI with some groups pulling out or not showing at the last minute. The **Repair Cafe** ran as usual, quieter but successfully mending things. There was a general feeling from the committee that there should be another interest at the EI, something more entertaining and fun that would **change the dynamic** of the venue.
 - We have decided that we will not be organising a Green Well-being Day/Week next year. We have so much we want to do and this has been very useful for us, but now it's back to the task of **saving the planet** in other ways. We took on a mammoth job which was all-consuming at times. We would, however, be willing to **support another group** in the village who would like to take it on. They would be able to put their own

slant on the event, have it smaller or larger, it would be their choice. Depending on who took on the task, it might not be in line with the national **Big Green Week** so there might not be a sustainable slant to the event.

- A question from members attending the meeting was, **what would SA do next year in line with the Big Green Week?** **AJ** suggested that we focus on the **business community** in Arnside by perhaps giving them a survey to start with. What **'green'** changes have they made or would like to make? We could point businesses in the direction of **available grants and Future Proof Cumbria**. **CG** suggested that W&F Council could help business with a **carbon audit**, thus giving them the understanding of their own carbon footprint. **HT** mentioned that by involving the business community it could catch the interest of another **demographic** in the village. **AJ** spoke of a **'low carbon food program'** which would help those businesses selling food, with their energy consumption and food waste. The group **PEAT**, across the estuary at Grange and the Cartmel peninsula, have recently had a talk from the councillor **Tim Bloomer**. Apparently he talks very well and has his own business, Fell Brewery. This could be in line with a **series of talks across the year**. Talks have been very popular and we could tailor the talks to attract different demographics each time.
- **HT** mentioned that she liked the idea of having a **theme for the year**, something that the SA members could focus on. The WI do this and it helps them to organise their tasks and energy. At SA, because we have been busy setting up the group and focussing on widening our appeal to the village, we have had a lot of work to do in that area. Now a lot of that has been achieved, thanks partly to the BGWW. Perhaps now is a time to narrow things down so that we can make sure that we have a good chance of **achieving what we want**. This is a **topic to be discussed** again at our next meeting. Any theme we agreed on would run alongside the **building up of our website** which has to have priority.

4. **Better Rivers – United Utilities/Community Fund** - We have recently been **awarded** a grant which will give us water butts for the village, up to the value of £2500. This is what we discussed on the topic.

- We are uncertain as to the value of the water butts so are not clear about how many we will receive. United Utilities have offered us **3 different sizes** and show different prices on their website for the general public but we are not sure, currently, if this the same value for us.
- **Mark McStacey**, who is an Environmental Scientist and who lives in the village, passed the details of the United Utilities grant to us. The application needed an organisation such as SA to apply rather than an individual such as himself.
- We have **secured storage** with the **APC in the cemetery grounds** and also **National Landscapes** have offered to help. Neither place wants the water butts to hang around for long and so we will ask people **to collect or we will deliver to** those who are unable to, asap.
- The list of people wanting a water butt is increasing quickly although the number of emails has now slowed down now. It was decided to give the **opportunity** to all those **on our mailing list** first as they have shown an interest in our group and what we are doing. Once the deadline of the **31st of July** has been reached, we can offer the water butts more widely.
- As it looks like we are getting close to our final number of water butts (without actually knowing the final number), **HT** will contact UU to ask their advice on the number of water butts we might receive, before offering to the wider public.

- **We will need helpers to deliver** them but it was decided at the meeting that as much as possible, people should collect themselves. One of the applicants kindly offered to help with delivery, this is much appreciated.
- A couple of applicants are from Storth and are clearly interested in SA as they receive our emails. We decided at the meeting that they **should be allowed** to have a water butt on this occasion, but we would need to be careful in future about other free offers we might give to the public and decide more carefully before hand. It was noted that SA is not just for the Arnside Residents but for the **wider community as well**. This means we can help people in areas like Storth or Far Arnside, with other projects and perhaps they should be included. It was noted that the Parish Council in Storth could also apply for the same community grant if they wished.
- **PC** explained about the water saving systems he has in his own residence. He has 3 large water bottles in the garden which he uses to water the plants and the rest of the rainwater goes to a soak-away. This means he isn't putting any rain water into the sewage system and once UU had proved this for themselves, he received a reduction on his water bill. He says that the reduction in cost for him is significant and worth making the change. He says that if you are **not draining your water into the general system**, you shouldn't be charged anything. He is now looking into a system to use on his own house where he can **redirect rainwater**, filter it and pump into the roof space where he will then use to **flush the toilets**. He is researching the possibility currently, the costing and practicalities of setting up a system. All the information **PC** gathers, he is willing to put onto our website to help others. We thank him for his generous offering of information to help our residents. **AJ** and **CG** both said that they both have **buckets of used water**, ready in the bathroom from the bath etc, which they use to flush the toilet. They barely have to flush the toilet at all conventionally.

5. **Plant, Produce and Seed Swap** – **HT** asked the question, shall we run this event again in the autumn?

- Previously this has been a very popular event and the season lends itself very well to a plant swap. It's the right time of year to be splitting plants, gathering seeds and sharing produce. **HT** believes that if you are interested in gardening it naturally leads onto an interest in nature and wildlife. One interest leads to the other.
- **MH** agreed that we should run the event again for the same reasons.
- **RD** was asked if the Fair-Trade group would like to be involved again this year. **RD** said that this year they had other plans, however, they would be willing to help us with teas and coffees. We thank then very much for this kind offer and will gladly take it up.
- **HT** suggested that we use the EI courtyard like we have done previously, this seems to work very well because of the overhead cover, a protection from the weather. The EI will be contacted to secure a date.

6. **Community Composting** - **HT** reported that after the talk from **Closing Loops** on Community Composting (9th June), we have the names and contact details of **5 people** who are interested. The question is how do we take this further?

- Sustainable Arnside do not want to run a Community Composting scheme themselves but would be able to **support** another group that are interested. SA could offer insurance and the policies required to **help them proceed**.
- It was agreed the 5 interested parties should be contacted to asked if they agreed to be put in touch with the other 4. They might then agree themselves to meet up.
- A Community Composting group might then be formed and it would be this group that

would take it forward.

- **HT** would forward the **PowerPoint** shown by Closing Loops, to remind them of the guidelines and instructions.
- **AJ** pointed out that after a very successful 2nd consultation with the public (4000 responses) about waste collection, **W&F council** are in the process currently, of deciding how and what changes to make to their **waste collection** service, if any. There will be an announcement soon regarding waste collections generally. The decisions made by the council about food waste and garden waste collection, might affect the interest of residents in a Community Composting scheme, one way or the other.

AOB

- **VS** has expressed interest in collecting data that will help us ascertain the progress households are making in Arnside when **switching to clean energy systems**. This in turn might help us understand any influence SA are having on the community. **PC** said that he would get in touch with **VS** to explain some of the data he's been able to get hold of and show her how to find it herself.
- **AJ** suggested that something we might like to try is producing **video blogs**. These could be made by different age groups and then, put onto the website. We want to know why different people are interested in combating climate change and others not. **CG** is particularly interested in connecting with the **Youth Group** in Arnside and says that the people who run the group appear to be very open to different ideas of this kind.
- **AS** has expressed an interest in the Repair Cafe helping to fit the water butts. We decided that we would wait until the water butts arrived before asking if there were any people who were needing help with delivery or fitting i.e. those who are elderly, frail and/or have poor DIY skills. We certainly wouldn't want to be fitting them all.
- **AJ** explained about her hobby of **wild swimming** and that how after the heavy rain this week she had looked at the United Utilities **live map** showing current discharges of sewage. She was absolutely **horrified to see the amount of discharge** being shown at that time, it made swimming impossible and it questioned some of her previous days swimming when she hadn't looked at the map. **She asked the question, 'what's happened to the water testing group?'** **HT and MH** explained that things had ground to a halt and that nobody appeared to want to lead the group. Some interesting information had been passed on by **Soil Scientist, John Quinton**, explaining about the **difficulties of testing in the estuary** amongst other things. **AJ** suggested that the issue was still of great importance and that rather than leave 'things hanging and unexplained', a **representative from the group** should give a short presentation explaining the situation as it stands, so that it can be temporarily left, for someone to pick up at a later date. **PC** suggested that we should all turn up in our swimming costumes 'ready for a swim'. Invite North West Tonight so that they could do a report.
- **MH** suggested that we have a talk about waste water, drought and water quality.

Jobs to do

1. HT, SW, CG, HC – write a report about how we organised the BGWW event from start to finish to help the next group organise the same. What went well etc.
2. PC to get in touch with VS about data collection and how to do it.
3. DLL, AM - Continue to upload content onto the website. The rest of SA write up content for the website. PB- check content before putting onto the website.
4. HT, SW, CG, HC - Create a feedback form for organisation to fill in and return to us about

the BGWW. The form will include the opportunity to make a pledge about lowering their carbon footprint in some way as well as asking permission to put their response onto our website.

5. PB - We need to decide and discuss what we will do in the Big Green Week next year. Ideas already discussed need to be refined.
6. HT and PB - SA need to decide on the possibility of a theme. If so, what theme will we choose. Is that the right decision.
7. HT - Send off application for water butts to United Utilities and discuss with them the number of WB's we will receive with them.
8. HT – Organise helpers with the delivery of water butts.
9. HT - Receive the water butts and plan for collection or delivery.
10. HT - Book Westmorland Room for the AGM in Sep.
11. HT - Book courtyard and kitchen at EI for the next plant swap.
12. Everyone – think of items that they could bring to the Plant, Seed and Produce Swap.
13. HT – Organise the promotion of the Plant Swap and arrange volunteers.
14. JH, TT, MH, SP, HC – to give a short presentation next meeting to explain the situation regarding water testing in the estuary.
15. CG – Contact Youth Group in Arnside.
16. HT – Contact the 5 names interested in Community Composting.

We will not be meeting in August as we will be taking our usual summer break.

Our next meeting will be the AGM in September, date to be confirmed.