



STEERING GROUP
10th March 2010
Minutes of the Meeting
Marks Tey Parish Hall, 2.00 pm

| Present: | Representing | Orgn | Initials |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Cllr John Jowers | Chairman | ECC | (JJ) |
| Canon John Brown | Vice Chair | RCCE | (JB) |
| Suzanne Harris | CAG & EERF | RCCE | (SH) |
| Philip Wilson | EcAG | ECC | (PhW) |
| Dominic Petre | EcAG | EET | (DP) |
| Fiona Bryant | EEDA | EEDA | (FB) |
| John Hall | EnvAG | EWT | (JH) |
| Cllr. Peter Baggott | EnvAG | EALC | (PB) |
| Cllr. Peter Chillingworth | LGA (Essex) | CBC | (PC) |
| Cllr. John Buchanan | EERF | EALC | (JBU) |
| Nick Shuttleworth | Facilitator orgn | RCCE | (NS) |

| Attending: | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Kirsty Monk | (minutes) | RCCE | (KM) |

| Apologies: | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------|------|
| Joy Sheppard | CAG | EALC | (JS) |
| Richard Woolley | EERF | RCCE | (RW) |
| Ed Gregory | Facilitator orgn | ECC | (EG) |
| Cllr Wendy Scattergood | LGA (Essex) | BDC | (WS) |
| Cllr. Mick Page | EERF | ECC | (MP) |

1 Welcome and Introductions

**Action
By**

Chairman Cllr. John Jowers welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies *(please see above for details).*

2 Minutes of the ERP Steering Group Meeting held on 5th February 2010

Item 9: change from "funding" to "joint spend".

Matters of Accuracy.

No further matters of accuracy were raised and those present agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

Matters Arising from the previous meeting were covered in the main agenda items.

Rural Advocate Report

JBU mentioned that the Rural Advocate Report had been launched (please see the Commission for Rural Communities website for further details: www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk).

My Village, My Home Event

NS advised that an Affordable Housing event would be held on Friday 16th April 2010 entitled "My Village, My Home" at Margaretting Village Hall; this is an event intended to inform and raise awareness about affordable rural housing for local people.

3 Review of the morning ERP meeting

Observations

DP felt that the strongest message taken from the morning Full ERP meeting regarding the transition model was that of the importance building "resilience" in rural communities.

PhW reported that the earlier transition presentations had mentioned tree planting (fruit and nut); Essex County Council had already given away 450,000 trees to be planted in Essex and the Council had also unveiled its new "EssexWorks" pledges for the coming year that sets out a number of specific initiatives to be delivered over the next year including the creation of a new generation of community allotments and orchards.

NS felt that the idea of transition growing out of a community getting interested in transition activities because they were enjoyable came across strongly in the earlier presentations.

NS thought that there might be potential scope to get these initiatives going in smaller communities and it would be interesting to see how this could be done.

JB felt that the transition initiatives groups' work cut across all 3 ERP Actions Groups.

Action: Invite representatives from Transition Initiatives to future ERP meetings

KM/SH

4 ERP Meeting Topics

After some discussion the Steering Group felt that the theme of the summer ERP Meeting should be the Shoreline Management Plan and the Marine Bill; they felt that a coastal venue location would be appropriate. Speakers from Environment Agency, Coastline Initiative, Coastal Communities Initiative and Balanced Seas were suggested by members present.

Action

SH invited Steering Group members to email suggestions regarding possible speakers on this subject.

ALL

FB suggested that following on from the transition theme and community development a possible future meeting topic could be regarding sustainable woodlands management and potential income generation.

Environmental Action Group

JH advised that potential diary dates had been discussed at the earlier Full ERP meeting with EnvAG members in attendance and it was hoped the initial meeting would take place toward the end of April.

JH reported that Matt Searle wished to be involved in the EnvAG and would be a useful link with Essex County Council.

5 East of England Rural Forum - EERF

SH reported that since John Yates had resigned the EERF would no longer have access to additional monies that John attracted while he was Chair of Chairs.

SH advised that feedback from a national review of regional rural fora had been positive; there were problems agreeing who should resource each region (Defra or local Government Offices), which was an ongoing argument.

6 Political Lobbying Toolkit

PB reported that NALC (National Association of Local Councils) is putting together a

lobbying toolkit which will be available with the NALC Local Council manifesto. These should both be available approximately 2 weeks.

Action:

ERP to respond to changing political landscape by ensuring that all parties are aware of the ERP and the ERP Rural Strategy.

All

7 Date of next ERP Full Partnership Meeting and Steering Group Meeting:

The next ERP Steering Group meeting will be held on 26th May 10.00am to 12.30pm, RCCE Offices Feering.

The next ERP Full Partnership Meeting will be held on 29th July 2010 (venue TBC) (9.30am Registration, Meeting Commences 10.00am to 1.15 pm- followed by a buffet lunch) The Steering Group Meeting will be held following lunch at 2.00 pm.

Meeting concluded 3.00pm