



Canalside Community Food

a community supported agriculture scheme

Annual General Meeting Minutes

7.30 for 8pm, Wednesday 27th January 2016

St Patrick's Irish Club (upstairs room), Adelaide Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AH

Chair: Gareth Davies (steering group member)

Steering group members present: Ali Jeffery (minuting), Will Johnson, Judy Steele, Gareth Davies, Ben Cowan, Matt Western, Magali Fowler, Xandra Gilchrist, Ruth Leary

Members present: 14 members were present:

Fiona Cottrell, Tequila Dave, Tallis Ingall, Tom Ingall, Di Sinclair, Felicity Rock, Elaine Newman, Debbie Collins, Jodi Sugden, Caz Ingall, Keri Ingall, Pam Reason, Richard Ashworth, John Liddamore

1. Introduction

Gareth welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Agnes Ashbell, Bruce Knight, Claire Phillips, Erica Moody, Chris Philpott, John Ingall

3. Approve Minutes from last AGM

We approved the minutes of the last AGM.

4. Financial Report *Presentation of our accounts over the last year*

Gareth presented an overview of the accounts over the past year.

Those present at the AGM approved the accounts being forwarded to companies house, and formally acknowledged that we'd like to continue to use Harris Accountants CIC as our accountants.

Gareth was thanked for putting together the accounts.

5. Steering Group elections

Ben Cowan stood down from the steering group at the AGM.

Ruth Leary, Xandra Gilchrist and John Ingall joined the steering group during the past year. These were elected to the steering group and the other members of the steering group were re-elected.

6. 10 minute summary of year

Will presented a round-up of the year. He answered questions about pest control on brassicas and responded to comments about the pick-your-own fruit in the orchard.

7. 'Back of an envelope'

Canalside kind of did start from the back of an envelope. Judy presented a brief trip down memory lane to show how Canalside started. We watched a poem about circular economies by Pangaea Poetry.

8. Introduction to discussion – summary of the questionnaire

Gareth presented the word clouds he created to show the responses to the questionnaire which we carried out in December.

People had more to say about what they like / want more of than what they didn't like, and the diversity help to balance the rotation and insure against possible poor harvests.

There were lots of events suggested – we're a limited number as the steering group, so Gareth encouraged people to organise things they want to happen, by liaising to check dates and for us to communicate them to members.

9. Discussion – *An opportunity for Members to air any views/comments/suggestions*

Those present suggested a number of ways to engage members and get new people coming to the farm:

Events - Fliers, advertise in Gaia, visual things in the collection space,

Felicity – willing to stand in collection space to talk to people about what is coming up.

Children's birthday parties – engaging people in a different way.

Natural England – moth breakfasts

Dawn chorus

Theatre like Mikron

Could the AGM become a summer event, or could there be a formal AGM and separately have an event in the summer?

Say hello to someone new each time we went in collection space

Buddy new members up with an existing member.

Visual display of members – photos, when joined etc.

Thank you for driving carefully sign now blocks the view to the left – Ali to follow up.

Land purchase

We're exploring the possibility of buying the land. Want to air the question now – how do people feel about that? How will that change their attitude to the farm?

The current veg growing fields, with access through Tallis Wood.

Q. Why is it a good idea?

A. We would be a more independent organisation and a better example of what we do – to produce food and be more buffered from external forces. We'd have greater security in the future by owning the land. We don't know what might happen in the future. We'd probably set up a community land trust which buys the land and rents it to Canalside.

Q. How could we fund it?

A. If the repayment period is shorter than our surplus could pay, we might need to look into other forms of funding such as crowd-funding. It could be something we launch for our ten year anniversary.

Q. What about Tallis Wood?

A. There is a case for protecting the land above our fields, although this would add a significant amount to the cost.

10. Close

The meeting closed just before 10pm.