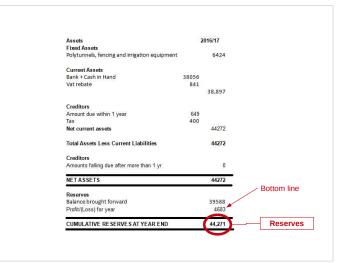


At this point I would like to ask:

- a) Are there any questions?
- b) Would people be prepared to approve the accounts at this point
- c) Are people happy to approve Harris Accountancy Ltd as our accountants for the next year  $\,$

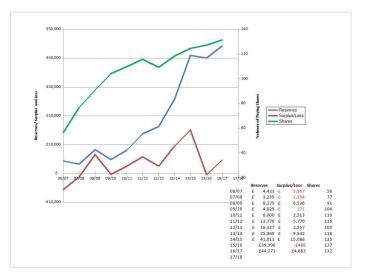
Now to our future plans.....



a) we have been offered a chance to buy the land

b) we have consulted widely with members and other organisations with the aim of the best way forward to protect the land for community use as a farm into the future.

- c) the steering committee has decided the best way forward is to form a Community Benefit Society (CBS) to raise the necessary money with a community share offer
- d) this allows us to own the land which we farm communally and use if for community benefit (veg and fruit production, social events, education, and horticulture therapy) into the future (see safeguarding the future)
- e) this will be safeguarded by the rules and objectives of the CBS (copies circulated and available) as well as any covenants on the land. We have help with both these aspects from Coop Culture UK and The Ecological Land Coop.



The rules of the CBS are based on Co-operatives UK Community Benefit Society Model rules (approved by the FCA) and we are not proposing large changes to these.

The objects of the CBS shall be to carry on any business for the benefit of the community by encouraging access to sustainably managed and maintained land in South Warwickshire in order for inhabitants to participate in activities that will increase their understanding and involvement in the growth and consumption of sustainable and organic food and the preservation and encouragement of biodiversity.

The Society shall be owned and controlled by its Members on a fair and equitable basis. They will be eligible for election to the board and all will have one vote at meetings irrespective of investment. Members will need to buy shares (value £1) with a minimum holding of 50. It is aimed to pay 2% interest per annum on shares but this will be at the discretion of the board.

Not all current veg members will want to become CBS members but will still be able to get a share of produce as veg share members or remain as social members. We will encourage and prioritise current members for CBS shares.

The current plan and timeline is:

a) registering as a CBS (Feb)

b) preparing a business plan and share offer document (by March)

c) seeking social investment tax relief (SITR) for investors (March- June)

d) seeking a standard mark review for the plan and offer (April)

e) preparing, launching and executing a community share offer campaign (June-Sept)

f) buying the land (Oct)

Thank You

Last year when discussing this with all the members we asked them to:

- 1) pledge how much they would be prepared to invest in this plan
- 2) fill in a ballot to register approval or not for this plan

The ballot was overwhelmingly in support of the plan.....

Of 176 members on our list 140 voted to convert the company to a CBS in order the secure the land (~80%)

On the pledges.....

We have 75 people who have pledged a total of £60,000 with many more potentially willing to actually invest more.

At the same rate of pledge we would need  ${\bf 67\ more\ people}$  to invest to meet our target

What we are asking now are for members to formally vote to convert the company to a community benefit society as the first step on the way to buying the land.

The proposal is below:

The Companies Act 2006

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