



Canalside Community Food

a community supported agriculture scheme

Annual General Meeting Minutes

3.30pm for 4pm, Saturday 14th September 2019

Canalside Community Food social area, Southam Road, Radford Semele, CV31 1TY

Chair: Tom Ingall

Steering committee members present: Gareth Davies, Tom Ingall, Judy Steele (minuting), Ali Jeffery, Magali Fowler, Dom van Marsh, Xandra Gilchrist, Ruth Leary

Members present: 37 members were present:

1. Checking the quorum

The quorum is set at 10% of membership. The signing in sheet recorded 37 attendees which fulfilled the requirement.

2. Apologies were received from:

Louise Male	Sarah Hamilton	Felix Mindham
Dave Fenton	Tom Hamilton	Adrian Parsons
Christine Fenton	Barbara Weed	Kristen Griffin
George Browning	Angus Alton	Carolyn Pickering
Debbie Collins	Di Sinclair	Clare Ollerenshaw
Felicity Rock	Lisa Lawrence	Ness Ainscow
Di Harris	Tony Mindham	Geof Elvyhart

3. Update on the affairs of the Society

The chair gave an update of what had happened in the Society since February 2018, the AGM at which the membership agreed to change the organisation's status to a Community Benefit Society. Since then the land has been purchased via a Community Share Offer which ran from May to June 2018. Vegetable share numbers have risen and there is now a considerable waiting list. Canalside aims to encourage the setting up of another CSA scheme in the future.

4. Financial Update

Gareth Davies presented a financial update. A paper summary of which was given to attendees (document attached). There were generous donations from people who wished to support the land purchase, but did not want to purchase. This enabled Canalside pay the fees necessary to complete the land purchase without drawing on reserves and had meant that a surplus of £4000 was generated instead of a predicted small loss. Reserves are in place to cover three months' running of the society. There is potentially a £400 tax bill.

DECISION: The accounts were accepted by all present

5. Agreement of members to disapply Audit

DECISION: Members agreed to disapply Audit

6. Appointment of Accountants

DECISION: Members agreed to the reappointment of Harris Accountants

7. Resolutions for discussion:

a) The society should pay 2% interest on shares

Question: Is this affordable and would it compromise the reserves?

Answer: It is not compulsory to pay interest every year, and in a poor year it might not be possible. This has been a good year, so it seems right to share the benefits.

The surplus, which was partly enabled by donations to the land purchase scheme (see above) has helped to make the interest payment feasible, and will not compromise the £53,000 reserves set aside.

Question: How would interest be paid?

Answer: Interest would be paid in shares as no cash interest is payable for the first three years of trading

DECISION: pay 2% interest this year

b) We should ask members if they would like to donate their interest to the Willows for use in developing the Care Farm.

Question: What would the money be used for?

Answer: At the moment the pressing need is for a wheelchair accessible toilet. Money would be given for specific projects to increase the client base and to increase the project's sustainability. One example that the Willows had put forward was for payment for a fund-raiser.

It was stressed that donating the 2% interest was optional and the decision of each individual shareholder

DECISION: agreed to ask members if they would like to take up the option of donating their interest to the Willows for use in developing the Care Farm.

Also agreed that the Willows should attend the next AGM to report on how the donations have helped the project.

c) Inform members that vegetable and membership prices may rise in the new year to meet inflation (salary costs input costs) since last increase.

Gareth Davies explained to members that wages had increased since the last price rise. Membership and vegetable share prices do not need to rise yet, but might need to in the New Year to reflect price rises in the outside world. Canalside tries to be a fair employer, with pensions a part of the staff contract, and to pay above the normal agricultural wage.

Question: Is leaving the EU likely to affect Canalside?

GD pointed out that a lot of our members are from mainland Europe, so they may be affected by the change. Our staff wages are linked to the Retail Price Index, and price rises are possible, making a wage increase essential.

8. Nomination and Election of Steering Committee members

Current steering group members needed to resign and be re-elected as the steering committee of the new company.

The biographies of current members, and also of proposed new member Beth Smith, were circulated to those present.

- a. Xandra Gilchrist is standing down from the steering committee. We all expressed our appreciation of her work for the steering group.
- b. The current standing members of the steering committee were willing to remain in place and were re-elected.
- c. Beth Smith, who has been an observer at steering group meetings for several months, was standing for steering group election. No-one else had put themselves forward to stand.
- d. Beth Smith was accepted as a steering group member.

9. Any Other Business

There was no further business, so the meeting was closed. It was followed by a Canalside quiz compiled by Dom van Marsh and a communal meal.