



Canalside Community Food

a community supported agriculture scheme

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at 5pm on Sunday 27 September 2020

Via Zoom videoconference

Chair: Tom Ingall

Steering committee members present: Ali Jeffery, Judy Steele, Gareth Davies, Magali Fowler, Rob Liddle (co-opted member), Ruth Leary, Dom van Marsh, Dianne Robinson (co-opted member, minute taker)

Members present: there were 58 members present including the steering committee members

1.	Quorum
	It was noted that a quorum of members was present.
2.	Apologies
	Apologies had been received from:
	Paula Palade
	Rebecca Earle
	Hayley-Kim O'Donovan
	Andrew Mulley
	Ann Smith
	Christine Fagan
	Jane Brace
	Sue Boniface
	Felicity Rock
	Chris Philpott
3.	Minutes of last AGM
	The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted by 87% of members present.
4.	Update on the affairs of the Society
	Ali Jeffery commented that many extremes in weather conditions had been experienced during the year. The farm was now better placed for irrigation during dry periods. The 2020 hungry gap had been more abundant than in any other year and several new crops had been tried.
	The main infrastructure work carried out during the year had been the replacement of the polythene cover on Tunnel 4 in 2019 and the re-skinning of Tunnel 1 in summer 2020.
	Many extra volunteers had been seen at the farm during the Covid-19 outbreak during the summer of 2020.
	2019 had been a record year for the education project with 176 children visiting the farm.
	The Willows project had seen a quiet spell during lockdown, but were now back and continuing their projects. Canalside had funded a Willows staff member to attend an Award for Education and Training course. Interest donated by Canalside investment members was to be put towards the cost of a new disabled toilet for the Willows area.
5.	Finance Report and Acceptance of Accounts

	<p>Gareth Davies gave an overview of the management accounts. There were currently 186 capital members who had invested in shares and around 160 weekly veg share members.</p> <p>The majority of income was from veg shares which were currently at maximum capacity. A surplus of around £7.7k had been made during the year which was slightly down on target.</p> <p>Cash reserves were good with more than the targeted equivalent of three months' running costs being held. Reserves had built up over the years as a result of increased share membership.</p> <p>The formal accounts were available to look at if anyone wished to do so.</p> <p>Acceptance of the accounts was put to the vote and 100% of those present voted to accept them.</p> <p>The chair thanked Gareth Davies for his presentation of the financial details.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Disapplication of audit requirement 98% of those present voted in favour of disapplying the audit requirement with one person abstaining.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Appointment of Accountants 100% of those present voted in favour of the re-appointment of Harris Accountants.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Plans for the future Dom van Marsh outlined Canalside's plans for the future.</p> <p>It was planned to purchase 2.25 acres of Little Gorse, the field between Big Gorse and the canal. This would be used for field vegetables and roughly half of Big Gorse would be used to plant up a new orchard to replace the existing one. This would help to safeguard Canalside's land in perpetuity and increase the overall land area. The new orchard would take around 10 years to fully develop and it was emphasised that there was no threat to the existing orchard.</p> <p>The cost of this purchase was estimated at a little over £20k and funding options were being discussed. Gareth Davies said that the preferred option was to raise the money via a crowdfunding exercise and several members suggested that some of the cash reserves could be used towards this.</p> <p>There were also plans to purchase a new tractor so that reliance on borrowing Leasowe Farm's tractor could be reduced. The cost was estimated at between £10k and £15k and Dom van Marsh hoped to complete the purchase by the end of the year.</p> <p>Dom van Marsh explained that all irrigation was currently from mains water which cost Canalside around £2k to £3k per year. A couple of alternatives were being explored. One possibility was to instal a water catchment system using a reservoir and Warwick County Council had expressed some interest in helping with this, especially if it included the creation of wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Another option under consideration was a borehole. This could be expensive to install but then ongoing costs would be low.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Resolution to pay interest on shares Gareth Davies outlined the pros and cons of paying interest on shares, adding that shareholders could be offered a choice of where their interest payment went.</p>

	<p>46% of those present voted to pay interest but with the option to waive it. 44% voted not to pay interest and 10% abstained.</p>
10.	<p>Nomination and Election of Steering Committee members Four members of the Steering Committee were standing down – Ali Jeffery, Ruth Leary, Sue Gibson and Geof Elvyhart. The chair expressed thanks to them all for their time and work as members of the committee and especially to Ali Jeffery.</p> <p>Four new members were standing for election – Dianne Robinson, Rob Liddle, Gabi Siemon and Johan Hugo.</p> <p>98% of those present voted to accept these elections and one person abstained.</p>
11.	<p>Any other business Patricia Hollis proposed a vote of thanks to Dom van Marsh in particular for the work he had done to keep things running through the summer and the pandemic.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone at Canalside for their work and all members for attending the meeting.</p> <p>There was no further business and the meeting closed at 18.18pm.</p>