

STROUD COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

Special General Meeting / AGM minutes.

22nd OCTOBER 2022 at Trinity Rooms Stroud

PRESENT:

35 people attended of which 5 were core group and 3 farm team

MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS: Personal details have been hidden (GDPR)

FARM TEAM: Marii-Liis Nukis, Sam Hardiman, Alex Osborne

FARM TEAM APOLOGIES: Sam Bullingham

CORE GROUP PRESENT: Clare Hudman, Ruth Shamroth, Iris McCormick, Adam Biscoe, Sebastian Billing.

23 PROXY VOTES: Personal details have been hidden (GDPR)

APOLOGIES FROM: (all members from membership list not mentioned above)

CHAIR OF MEETING & INTRODUCTION: Nick Weir (invited by core group to chair)

Call for weekend support

Mari-Liis, on behalf of the farm team, made a request to members to volunteer to help with the weekend checking of the farm – this would include checking the animals and opening and closing polytunnels during the weekends. This would support the farm team.

Special General Meeting

Adam Biscoe explained the need to call the meeting a Special General Meeting which is in order to change the rules of the organisation.

Rule Change

Adam introduced and explained the rationale for this. See [website](#).

General questions were raised such as “What will be gained or lost with this change” to which Adam explained nothing will be lost and the organisations assets will be protected and the organisation will as a result be able to apply for funding and grants. Also, “has the wording been checked by a lawyer” to which Adam explained that the text is taken directly from the government department and is recommended by our consultants The Hive organisation.

This motion was Proposed by Jade Bashford and Seconded by Simon Charter and Andy Freedman.

The vote was unanimously in favour.

Principal Values

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Along with the rule change was a proposal to update the Principal Values of the organisation. Adam introduced and explained the rationale for this. See [website](#).

There was expressed a proposal from some members to add to the principle values a positive commitment to reduce the organisations CO2 output and promote biodiversity. This was agreed and will be included.

This motion was proposed by Simon Pickering and Seconded by Mark Harrison and Ruth Schamroth.

The vote was unanimously in favour.

ANNUAL REPORTS:

Farm & Veg Report – Sam Hardiman for the farm and Alex and Liis for the growing, presented their reports.

Membership Report – Carol sent her apologies. Clare Hudman presented the report.

Core Group Report – Clare Hudman presented the report.

Finance Report – Rachal Joyce Gibbons presented the report.

(Reports were sent to members before the AGM - for the reports text see [website](#).)

Financial Accounts

Rachel presented the financial accounts for the year 2021 to 2022.

Clare Sheridan proposed and Iris McCormick seconded that the accounts be approved.

The vote was unanimously in favour.

Jade Bashford proposed and Helen Brent-Smith seconded that the accounts not be audited.

The vote was unanimously in favour.

Core Group Members

STANDING DOWN (Many thanks for their time on core group): Greg Dance

STAYING ON CORE GROUP: Clare Hudman, Ruth Schamroth, Iris McCormick, Adam Biscoe, Sebastian Billing

ELECTED ONTO CORE GROUP:

Ed Bonn

Iris proposed and Rachel seconded that Ed be accepted to be on the core group. The vote was unanimously in favour.

Victoria Kyme

Iris proposed and Rachel seconded that Victoria Kyme be accepted to be on the core group. The vote was unanimously in favour.

Future Plans

There was a discussion about how the farm has been through change during the past year including changes in personnel and changes in the land the farm has. This has presented a number of challenges and has also led to positive initiatives. Farm team members now have 'buddies' in the core group for support as well as implementing a flat management

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structure. The farm team had a little time away from farming in order visit and get inspiration from other farms to put their heads together to plan for the future. They now have a plan and are confident it is robust, sustainable and will rejuvenate the land, the shares and the wellbeing of the community.

To support the future of the farm and the farm team, SCA has appointed a temporary fundraising team member in Adam Biscoe (*see Core Group Report on the [website](#)*).

One part of future planning is fundraising to enable updating farm equipment, some of which is old and outdated, and welfare facilities. This will enable the farm to operate more efficiently and productively, as well has have the time and resources to build on the quality of the land and produce.

Questions

Mark Harrison asked how the farm plan to manage with the resignation of farmer Sam. It was explained that there is and has been for a while a review of the farm, the land, the livestock and the farm team and management structures. Within this process the farm have engaged with relevant experts to help with planning. Out of this there is a comprehensive strategy that is believed will enhance the vitality of the soil, the quality of the produce and the wellbeing of the farm and community. This is outlined on the website under [Projects](#).