

Larkrise Community Farm

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Larkrise Community Farm on 23rd November 2022

1 Chair of Trustees, Rob Ham, welcomed all to the meeting. The following attended:

Trustees – Rob Ham (Chair), Jane Wallis (Vice Chair), Paul Simms (Treasurer), Ali Rasey (Secretary), Sarah Creed, Cathy Kavanagh (RDA representative)

There were no apologies. This was the first 'in person' AGM gathering since the pandemic.

2 Election of trustees

Because LCF is not a membership organisation, election of the Trustees took place before the main part of the meeting. All trustees indicated their willingness to stand again. Chair Rob Ham temporarily stood down and the Chair was taken by Vice Chair Jane Wallis, who proposed Rob Ham as Chair of the Trustees, this was seconded by Cathy Kavanagh, and agreed unanimously.

Rob Ham returned as Chair of the Trustees and proposed that the remainder of the trustees return en bloc to their pre-existing roles, seconded by Sarah Creed and agreed unanimously.

3 Minutes of the previous AGM held on 13th October 2021 were signed as a true and correct record. There were no matters arising, the main part of the meeting then continued.

4 Chairman's report

Larkrise Community Farm (LCF) has weathered the Pandemic. Covid meant new ways of working to keep everyone involved safe, and these ways of working had to be dynamic to reflect continually changing government regulations/guidelines. Thank you for the support of all – staff, students and volunteers – their dedication has been vital to the success of LCF.

LCF is financially secure. We continue to invest in staff training, and some larger items of expenditure this past year have also included fencing, a staff rest room and alterations outside to enable students to use an area during warmer weather.

LCF Riding for the Disabled (RDA) is up and running again and we are indebted to Tracy Simms who has been instrumental in this respect. Sadly for us Tracy is standing down from LCF RDA, so we want to record a huge thanks to her. We are looking for a volunteer to step into her role, and Cathy Kavanagh, Chair of the LCF RDA group will be pleased to discuss this with anyone who may be interested.

Thanks to all the trustees for their continued support and work behind the scenes to ensure we continue to work within the Charity Commission purposes and rules. We are looking for two more trustees, especially with experience in HR or farming, so do let me know if you may be interested.

5 Treasurer's report

The financial summary is as follows:

- 2021/22 total income = £283,938 (£49,636 more than in 2020/22). Income from student fees and RDA lessons was more than in the previous year, grant income was less; this represents a return to more normal operations after the Pandemic.
- 2021/22 total expenditure = £236,208 (£12,812 more than in 2020/21).

This means a £47,730 surplus in 2021/22 c.f. a £10,906 surplus in 2020/21). Any surplus is reinvested back into the running of the Farm.

Balance sheets;

- 2021/22 total assets less current liabilities were £576,257 (£47,430 more than in 2020/21).
- 2021/22 fixed assets were £296,628 (£308,128 in 2020/21 – the reduction is due to depreciation).
- 2021/22 net current assets were £279,629 (£220,399 in 2020/21).

For this 2022/23 Financial Year, as of October 2022 there is a £12.7k deficit of expenditure over income. For the end of this 22/23 Financial Year the forecast is for LCF's income to be £247.6k and expenditure to be £253.8k, ie a net deficit of £6.2k at the end of this 22/23 Financial Year. We are in a good position to be able to forecast in this way, and would like to thank all those who buy LCF's services.

Change to 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (CIO) status;

LCF is currently an Unincorporated organisation. Trustees decided to change its status to a CIO so that it can operate in its own right rather than in trustees' names. Many other UK charities are making this change. In March 2021 we registered a new LCF CIO with the Charity Commission. Since spring 2022 we have been working to transfer the lease of LCF's land to the new CIO. Once complete we will operate as a CIO, but this will not change any working practices.

6 Farm report

This has been another challenging year, with all of the staff having had covid at one time or another, and all of their workload needing to remain covered. LCF kept running despite this. The Farm is nearly at capacity with adults and students. Maintenance is always ongoing, but this year a significant amount of fencing has been replaced and a new exercise paddock for the goats.

There is a new staff room which has at last enabled the Assistant Manager to have her own office.

Twenty-two jars of honey were produced by the Farm's bees this year, and we hope to offer beekeeping for students in the future. Very sadly, our wonderful beekeeping mentor Geraldine died; Alex is now kindly helping with the bees.

Tracy Simms has stepped back from the RDA, but Katie Chandler is still coaching.

Student of the Year Award presented by Trowbridge Mayor Graham Hill this year goes to Anthony B. Many congratulations to Anthony!

Finally, huge thanks to all staff, volunteers and supporters, my husband Steve, and the Board of Trustees.

8 AOB

There was none.

9 Date of next AGM – to be held in October 2023, the precise date to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm