**Larkrise Community Farm**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held at Larkrise Community Farm, 7pm on 15th August 2019**

1. Chairman of the Trustees, Sue Bradbrooke, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from the Trowbridge Mayor and the Rt Hon Andrew Murrison MP.
2. Minutes of the last AGM held 22.08.18 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.
3. **Chairman’s report**;

Sue Bradbrooke explained that after an eight year tenure she wished to step down from being Chair and Trustee at this AGM. Sue went on to summarise some of the changes during her eight years; she thanked Wendy Self, Ashley Wicks and all the LCF staff. In 2011 there were six staff; now in 2019 there are 11 staff and three employed on a casual labour basis. Alan Benson has helped as a volunteer in the past, and is hopefully to become a permanent member of staff in the near future. Huge thanks also go to the volunteers too, who are a vital part of the Farm. Amanda Paines, Educational Co-ordinator, outlined her work in getting school placements – it is clear there is a need for places like LCF to complement the work of schools, and the Farm is seen as a valuable resource for schools.

* There are now two front offices, one staffed by an Office Manager, and one Finance.
* RDA has been an important addition to the Farm’s activities; in 2018 LCF and Hampsley Hollow RDAs merged into one, running from the site here outside Trowbridge. For those unable to ride, carriage driving is available.
* The manège now has a roof which means it is usable all year round whatever the weather. Other additions include Equine Assisted Learning, bees, a staff room, new kitchen area, and improved classroom facilities; thanks to Rosie Fell and team, and Melksham and Trowbridge Area Board Grants for making much of this possible.
* Our fete in 2017 had over 500 attendees and was very successful. It involves so much preparation however that we have decided to make this a bi-annual event. Many thanks to Rob Ham for leading on this with his outstanding organisational skills and attention to detail.
* The variety of livestock we have at the Farm are chosen for their calm nature and usefulness in a learning environment rather than for profit – we think we have the balance about right here.
* Finally, Sue thanked fellow trustees and her husband Jeremy Bradbrooke for all the support over the last eight years.
* In stepping down, Sue nominated Rosie Fell to take over as Chair, which was seconded by Cathy Kavanagh and agreed unanimously.

Rosie Fell accepted the role of Chairman and thanked Sue Bradbrooke for all her work over the last eight years. Rosie then introduced all the trustees and their roles. Peter Gale thanked the Fete Committee, with particular thanks going to Rob Ham.

1. **Treasurer’s report**;

Paul Simms summarised the accounts; at £302,000, income was higher than in the previous year. (Donations achieved £49,000.) Expenditure was £251,000.

The Farm’s reserves were acceptable, and this year has started well. The 2017 fete raised over £2,000 which was a pleasant surprise.

Thanks were given to Alan Benson for his help in covering the finances.

There were no questions from the floor.

1. **Farm Manager’s report**;

Wendy Self thanked all students and staff for their help over the past year and also in preparing the Farm for this evening’s meeting; Wendy went on to summarise some of the more expensive but nevertheless important items of the last year;

* Extending the handstanding area
* Portacabin fitted out as classroom/meeting room
* Sewage treatment plant maintenance works
* Large walk-in poultry run
* Post and rail fencing

Work-in-progress included a mounting ramp for RDA, and also carriage driving with the donkeys.

Many thanks to Damien and his Mum for raising £600 by having their hair shaved – this will be spent on a pergola for the garden.

Currently there are 25 students and 22 adults accessing the Farm each week. The educational work was outlined by Amanda.

Finally thanks were given to Steve Self, the trustees, and to Sue Bradbrooke for her valued involvement with the Farm over particularly the last eight years.

1. **Awards and presentations**;

Outstanding contribution by a Farm volunteer – DAVID HENLEY

RDA volunteer of the year – JANE WILLIAMS

LCF/Hampsley Hollow RDA group rider – JADE HAMLYN

Student of the year – joint winners – DAMIEN CHILCOT AND THOMAS

1. **AOB**;

There was none.

The meeting ended at 19.30

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