

Annual General Meeting 7 February 2023

Teleconference

Present:

Board: Gemma Hooper (Surrey Docks City Farm), Caroline Hutton (**Company Secretary**), John Le Corney (Friends of Gleadless Valley Methodist Church Community Garden), Sally Partridge (Greenmeadow Community Farm and **Chair**),

Staff: Amber Alferoff (London manager), Sophie Antonelli (Central Services manager), Richard Choksey (London development), Connor O’Kane (NI development), Claire O’Neill (Comms), Denise Sear (GCQM), Katie Trent (CLAS), Miriam Turley (NI Turley), Patricia Wallace (NI Manager)

Voting Members: Janet Corrie (Drumhilla Garden), Tim Freathy (Depden Care Farm), Barbara Mills (Hoofprints Miniature Haven), Severine Monvoisin (Edinburgh College), Jade Richardson (Riverside Education), Mark Roberts (Liberty Consortium), Geoff Stevens (Pathways Care Farm),

Non-voting Members: Anna Baker-Cresswell (Highground), Charles Mathieson, Julie Milsom (Hereford Community Farm),

Apologies: Judi (Brambles Care Farm), Michael Chadney (Kentish Town City Farm), Mike Collins (Bath City Farm), Malachy Dolan (Dolan’s Social Farm), David Drury, Mark Fry (New Forest Care), Rob Gaylor (Lambourne End), Vic Hobson (Mudlarks Garden), Ellen Ledingham, Carol Monk (Rainbow Rural), Jean Morrison (Whitley Bay Community Allotment and Garden), Maurice Patton (Ards Allotments), Ian Thompson (St Peter’s Hall and garden), Steve Williams (Oasis),

Minutes of the 22 January 2022 AGM: agreed

Matters arising: none raised

Report of activities: Sally Partridge presented a set of slides on the **activities of the organisation** over the year.

Approval of the accounts: by email

Approval of the Auditors: Burnside Chartered Accountants, 61 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4JZ by email

Election of Trustees:

From the votes cast by members with voting rights, the following people were elected as Trustees from 1 April 2023:

- Mike Collins (Bath City Farm)
- Gemma Hooper (Surrey Docks City Farm)

- John Le Corney (Heeley City Farm)
- Mark Roberts (Liberty Consortium)

There is one additional place available for the Trustees to appoint; to be decided at the April SF&G Board meeting.

Questions in the chat and from members:

From Geoff Stevens to Everyone: We have just bought a bulk delivery of compost and the costs have risen dramatically since last time. Is there any mileage in considering a joint bulk purchase so that members might combine their needs and demand a discounted price... I realise there would be distribution issues as we are spread out but possibly something to consider.

From Amber - Social Farms & Gardens to Everyone: London members have expressed an interest in bulk buying too

From Conor Social Farms & Gardens to Everyone: This is something that we have coordinated within our local networks here in NI - where there is also buyback options on Compost produced from Council Green Waste collection

Action: SF&G will explore options for bulk buying

Tim Freathy asked about the percentage of members using the green Care Quality Mark

Response: 29 members have achieved the GCQM, 5 have a valid Code of Practice (predecessor of GCQM) and 52 members are going through the GCQM process

From Julie Milsom to Everyone: The GCQM would be equally applicable for Alternative Educational Provision where organisations do not meet criteria for OFSTED accreditation

Mark Roberts (Liberty Consortium) highlighted that there is a quality mark run by *Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful* already operating. It was confirmed that SF&G are aware of this.

Next Annual General Meeting: Saturday 20 January 2024 at 2pm

The AGM was formally **closed**.

Social Farms & Gardens is a registered company and registered charity.

Registered Address: Pendinas Community Garden, Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys, Cymru, Y16 4HX

Company number: 2011023. VAT Number: 520 2825 82.

Charity Numbers (England & Wales): 294494 (Scotland) SC039440