

Minutes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Company number: 31018R

The Community Farm Limited (“the Farm”)

Wednesday 13 November 2024 5.30pm (for 6pm) until 8.00pm The Library, Chew Valley School, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8QB		
Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Raffle (Chair) • Naomi Kent (Acting Secretary) • Ben Newton • David Whittaker • Annie Price • Masuyo Newman • Rachel Hammond • Jason Craig 	
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Brooks • Tom Richardson • John Miller • Sally Purnell • Maya Comely • Andy White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annabel Wallace • Will Warin • Kate Eastment • Nick Haigh • Harley Wright
Shareholder Members/ Volunteers/ friends of the Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Saunders • Ped Asgarian • David Parkinson • Sarah Pitt • Alison Tanner • Duncan Massey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Scholefield • Caroline Wilson • Sue Miller Ian Cooper (prospective MC member) • Elisa Tomassini Morgan (prospective MC member)
Proxy votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 members had submitted their votes online in advance of the meeting, some of whom were in attendance. The remaining 12 members who were present, not prior voted, and eligible to vote, cast their votes at the meeting. 	

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 6 pm and welcomed those attending the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Claire Bloor, Will and Debs Wyatt, Pauline Markovits and Alison Belshaw. It was noted that the meeting was quorate and there were 57 Prior votes received by the deadline for voting, and a further 12 eligible votes cast at the meeting.

Warm thanks were noted to Selena Gray, Pheobe Ruxton, Mas Newman and Annie Price who have stood down from the Management Committee and to Sarah Pitt who has stood down as Chair of the Wildlife Group.

Particular thanks were given to Angela Raffle who for all she has done as Chair of the Management Committee since 2015, as she hands over the chair role to Ben Newton, and remains on the MC.

2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 8 November 2023, which had been circulated with the Notice and other papers for the meeting, were approved.

For: 65
Against: 0
Abstain: 4

3 Annual report and accounts

The annual report and accounts for the period April 2023 to March 2024 were received by the meeting.

4 Re-appointment of Auditors

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Elliot Bunker as auditors for 2024/25 and authorised the Directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors.

For: 69
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

5 Appointment of Directors

As required by the Articles of Association, at each AGM one third of serving members of the management Committee must step down. As noted above Selena Gray, Phoebe Ruxton, Mas Newman and Annie Price have stepped down.

Three people were nominated to stand for election as members of the Management Committee.

5.1 Ped Asgarian

The meeting approved the appointment of Ped Asgarian as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 68
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

5.2 Ian Cooper

The meeting approved the appointment of Ian Cooper as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 69
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

5.3 Elisa Tommassini Morgan

The meeting approved the appointment of Eisa Tommassini Morgan as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 69
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

6.1 Financial overview: Ben Newton

Ben gave an overview of the figures in the Annual Report. TCF had a much steadier financial year in 2023/24 increasing revenue by 6% from the previous year and resulting in a turnover of c.£1 million and despite the wider operating context of inflation TCF has managed to retain its gross profit margin of 48%. Overheads have increased due to investment in staffing and increased marketing spend. However, this has resulted in an increase in sales (6% growth in veg box sales and 8% growth in wholesale) and refocussed energy on

fundraising efforts. Although the financial year ended with a small net loss of £9k the Farm is in a reasonable position in terms of net assets.

Questions and discussion followed.

7. Long Term Thinking: Kim Brooks and Tom Richardson

Kim reported that the senior team, with the support of Ben as facilitator, held sessions looking at refocussing and refreshing the long term thinking for TCF. As part of this a consultation exercise involving over 60 people (staff, volunteers, MC members, customers, shareholders, partner organisations and funders) was undertaken which generated lots of positivity and insights. Tom presented a summary of the takeaways from the consultation in response to 4 provocative statements around land use, membership, future of the veg box and food as an integral part of all activities. Following this Kim outlined two key decisions; 1. Recognising the power of food as a way to bring people together and to inspire action and 2. Building our community is the best way to maximise our impact. Also six key projects have been identified that can be commenced when funding and capacity allows.

Questions and discussion followed.

6 Close

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

End