

# Minutes

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Company number: 31018R

The Community Farm Limited ("the Farm")

<b>Wednesday 10 November 2021</b> <b>5.30pm (for 6pm) until 8.00pm</b> <b>The Main Hall, Chew Valley School, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8QB</b>		
<b>Management Committee Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Angela Raffle</li> <li>● Kim Brooks</li> <li>● Maddie Dunn</li> <li>● John Christensen</li> <li>● Claire Bloor</li> <li>● David Whittaker</li> <li>● Annie Price</li> <li>● Masuyo Newman</li> <li>● Ben Newton</li> <li>● Emily Wilson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chair</li> <li>● Managing Director</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member</li> <li>● MC Member (Minutes)</li> </ul>
<b>Shareholder Members and friends of the farm</b>	In addition to the Management Committee members, the meeting was attended by 15 members and friends of the Farm	

### 1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.10pm. All attendees were welcomed to the meeting.

She noted apologies had been received from Dave Hunter, Acoma Aloya, Nicky Spear and Luke Hasell.

It was noted that the meeting was quorate and there were 55 Proxy votes received before the deadline for voting by proxy, including:

- 22 members who appointed the Secretary or Chair with directions on their votes
- 33 members who appointed the Secretary without directions on their votes

Thanks were noted to Esther Giles and Shreyas Janivar who have stood down from the committee since the last AGM.

### 2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 12 November 2020, which had been circulated with the Notice and other papers for the meeting, were approved.

### 3 The work of The Farm during 2020/21 and a strategic overview for the forthcoming few years.

Kim Brooks reflected on the work of the Farm in the past year, noting that it was a year marked by COVID-19. She highlighted performance on:

- Food: The emergence of Covid, there was a focus on food and a doubling of veg boxes within a matter of a few weeks. Management of the rapid escalation was an extraordinary achievement. Peaks and troughs of veg boxes mirrored the waves of Covid.
- Farming: COVID-19 restrictions limited the volunteer help on the Farm initially, then we managed the return to the farm carefully, to support food production. It was a great year of food production.
- Wildlife: There was a reduction in work and group presence during Covid, but progress is now being made, including implementing the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Communities: Limitations were imposed on volunteering and groups, such as restrictions in space and numbers. The Farm received a grant for an outdoor shelter. Many saw our Communities programmes as an antidote to the pressures of the pandemic.

There were silver linings from Covid: many people turned to local food suppliers, and had time to cook from scratch. The Farm thrived and provided a beautiful haven. Despite the challenges, we achieved great things throughout the year.

### **3.1 Financial overview**

COVID-19 (and Brexit) emphasised the need for The Farm and demonstrated the priority of our objectives.

- Profit and Loss: This was the first year the Farm achieved a financial surplus. Although veg box customers gradually decreased after COVID, numbers have not reduced to pre-Covid levels. We are now working to gradually grow numbers. Costs have increased but this has been offset by an increase in trade.
- Balance Sheet: The Farm's assets increased.
- The Farm helped to support people disproportionately affected by Covid through provision of meals to vulnerable people at home, and other projects enabled by donations from customers. A grant was received for the Bath Shop.
- Grant funding has decreased over time.

On the need to replace the Esmée Fairbairn Grant, Kim advised that we will need to seek grant funding to support the social and environmental objectives, in addition to growing the commercial return from the business.

## **4 Annual report and accounts**

The annual report and accounts for the period April 2020 to March 2021 were received by the meeting.

## **5 Re-appointment of Auditors**

The Meeting unanimously approved the re-appointment of Elliot Bunker as auditors for 2021/22 and to authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors.

## **6 Re-appointment of Directors**

### **6.1 Masuyo Newman**

Masuyo introduced herself to the meeting and explained why she wished to continue serve The Community Farm and what she felt she could offer.

The Meeting unanimously re-elected Masuyo Newman to the Management Committee.

### **6.2 Angela Raffle**

Angela introduced herself to the meeting and explained why she wished to continue serve The Community Farm and what she felt she could offer.

The Meeting unanimously re-elected Angela Raffle to the Management Committee.

### **6.3 Maddie Dunn**

Maddie introduced herself to the meeting and explained why she wished to continue serve The Community Farm and what she felt she could offer.

The Meeting unanimously re-elected Maddie Dunn to the Management Committee.

### **7 Questions**

There then followed questions to staff, and committee members, and general discussion.

### **8 Close**

All in attendance were invited to network with Farm members, staff, volunteers and management committee.

End