

Minutes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Company number: 31018R

The Community Farm Limited (“the Farm”)

Wednesday 8 November 2023 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 • David Whittaker • Annie Price • Masuyo Newman • Ben Newton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • MC Member (Minutes)
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daisy Sutcliffe • Tom Richardson • John Miller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annabel Wallace • Julian Gren • Will Warin
Shareholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryony Huntley • Joy Harcup • Nick Hasell • Sam Saunders • David Parry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Scholefield • Caroline Wilson • Sue Miller • Deb Wyatt
Other attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Hammond • Phoebe Ruxton • Naomi Kent 	
Proxy votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 members submitted a proxy vote and appointed the Secretary with directions on their votes 	

1 Welcome and apologies

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

She noted apologies had been received from Jason Craig, Claire Bloor and Selena Gray. It was noted that the meeting was quorate and there were 54 Proxy votes received before the deadline for voting by proxy.

Thanks were noted to Emily Wilson who stood down from the committee in July.

2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 10 November 2022, which had been circulated with the Notice and other papers for the meeting, were approved.

For: 54
 Against: 0
 Abstain: 3

3 Annual report and accounts

The annual report and accounts for the period April 2021 to March 2022 were received by the meeting.

4 Re-appointment of Auditors

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Elliot Bunker as auditors for 2023/24 and authorised the Directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors.

For: 60
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 and may be re-appointed.

5.1 Masuyo Newman

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Masuyo Newman as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 60
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

5.2 Angela Raffle

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Angela Raffle as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 60
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

5.3 Maddie Dunn

The meeting approved the re-appointment of Maddie Dunn (currently on sick leave) as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 60
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

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

5.4 Naomi Kent

The meeting approved the appointment of Naomi Kent as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 60
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

5.5 Phoebe Ruxton

The meeting approved the appointment of Phoebe Ruxton as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 60
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

5.6 Rachel Hammond

The meeting approved the appointment of Rachel Hammond as a member of the Management Committee.

For: 60
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

6.1 Financial overview: Ben Newton

Ben gave an overview of the figures in the Annual Report as well as an update to August 2023. TCF started 2022/23 with major worries after the reduction in trade post-lockdown and an overall loss in 2021/22. This has been turned around, from August 2022. Overheads were reduced, and customer numbers were increased thanks to a low-cost 'Stand With Us' campaign. A further major change has been the increase in grants and other income. The financial year ended with a surplus and we currently have cash in the bank.

Questions and discussion followed.

6.2 Farming: John Miller

John has been In post for about a year, and his role brought a new arrangement, combining oversight of both food and farming. It has been a very challenging year both weather-wise and trading-wise, especially for organic farms. Production costs have increased and demand has reduced nationwide. TCF took the decision, when our previous head grower left, to instead have a team of three growers who work collaboratively together and each take a lead on different aspects of the Farm. This has required new ways of working, and is bringing benefits

Questions and discussion followed.

6.3 Communities, partnerships and wildlife: Daisy Sutcliffe

Grants income has enabled us to continue all five strands of the communities programme:

- Volunteering
- Growing wellbeing (with Ecowild)
- Schools (with Earthwise)
- Community outreach partnerships
- Events

Daisy gave an overview of the Communities programme, mentioned the partnership work with Chew Valley School, and the important work of the Wildlife group. She paid tribute to all her colleagues, and finished by reading aloud Adam Horowitz's poem *The Soil Never Sleeps*.

7 Final remarks and questions

There then followed questions and general discussion, followed by an opportunity for further informal chat over tea and cake.

6 Close

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

End