**Annual General Meeting Gibside Community Farm**

**March 18th 2017**

**Venue Gibside White House**

Present Tony Fisk, Steve Hunter, Howarth Harvey, Paul Gertig, Rachel Putz, Lesley Mountain, Garry Jenkins.

Apols Mick Marston, Maria Goulding

1. Appointment of chair: Paul Gertig
2. Annual accounts

Garry presented the annual accounts: balance sheet and profit and loss account. Overall loss of £731.17 for the year. In the unrestricted funds we made a profit of £1310, but we spent more on the restricted funds, which we could carry forward to this year. We have carried forward £4953.37 into this financial year, made up off £1310 unrestricted and £3643.37 restricted. We have assets in black plastic and the work on the trailer and shelves. Creditors and accruals of £648.04 are connected to insurance covering 2 financial years.

The accounts were proposed to be accepted as a true record by Paul Gertig and seconded by Howarth Harvey. This was agreed by the meeting. The meeting formally thanked Garry as the treasurer for all his work over the year.

The work on this year accounts showed that there were some amendments to last year’s accounts. These were formally accepted by the meeting.

The directors had set a budget for the financial year, Garry presented a comparison of actual spend against the budget. This showed that we did not spend as much as was anticipated on growing modules, because members grew some instead of Star. Insurance and fees costs were more than anticipated due to needing insurance for the tractor. We also sold more at the market than was anticipated.

1. Activity – Rachel presented report highlighting our activities for the year. We sold veg to Abundant Earth and The Paddock, increased our members to 23, sold veg at 8 local markets and developed the honesty box scheme on the display shelves in the market place. We continued to supply surplus veg to the Foodbank in Blaydon and to support TWIG events. Flowers were a new venture and were very successful as they were appreciated in the garden and drew in visitors to our plots as well as being a good seller at the market. We took part in a new horticultural show in Gibside, winning some 2nd and 3rd prizes and taking over £100 at the stall on that day. We worked closely with our expert farmer, (supported by the Gateshead Council’s Capacity Fund) to develop our plans for the field. We greatly appreciated the support of the Ferguson Tractor Club, who renovated a 60-year-old tractor for us and helped us plant and harvest our potatoes.
2. Funding report – Paul highlighted the grants that we had received. The Gateshead Capacity Fund enabled us to receive a detailed report from Iain Tolhurst to support our development of the field. We held back on doing many other funding applications until we had the result of that report. We had 2 successful bids, one for solar panels for a structure on the field, which will be sufficient for lighting in our building on the field, and the second for an Orchard Windfall grant for the purchase and planting of 24 apple trees on the field. (The planting occurred after this financial year.) Thanks to Garry for the 2 applications which were successful. We did not get the lease from the National Trust in this financial year so we were not able to do more detailed fundraising.
3. Election of directors – Present directors are Paul Gertig, Garry Jenkins and Rachel Putz, Lesley and Jane moved re-election of directors. This was agreed. Paul asked if anyone else would like to become a 4th director. No one present wanted to become a director. There is still a vacancy for a 4th director if any member is interested.
4. Any other business? None. There was a vote of thanks to all the members who have been so actively involved in the developing the organisation, filling display shelves, making chutney, growing modules, attending meetings, doing the growing.
5. Meeting was closed at 11am.