**General Meeting 6th April 2017 (Red Kite)**

Present Mick, Garry, Wendy, Howarth, Rachel

Apols Paul

Howarth to chair

Any matters arising – none

**Management and finance group** – we have received bright ideas money so have £20548 balance in the bank. Decided not to move money to an interest account as will not have the money for long and there is very little interest available. We have also received the orchards windfall trust money so that project is now completed.

**Health and safety policy** – Rachel to send draft policy to Tim for advice. Also, considered a first aid box and accident book. Agreed that Howarth will buy a First Aid box and he will ensure items are kept within date. Rachel to inform members where the box is and amend induction pack. Rachel will check whether we need an accident book.

**Growers group** - We are trying to find some growers for the Bright Ideas money. A brief has been produced and 3 growers will be sent the brief tomorrow. We will circulate the brief to all members so they know what is happening.

**Potato planting day** - Mick will liaise with Brian. We will try and learn how to drive our tractor at the same time. Paul needs to bring the battery.

**Flail** - Howarth has researched flails and found some for £1000 to £1700. Unsure whether our Fergie has powerful enough revs to power a modern flail. Mick questioned how long we will need a flail for as once the field is fully cultivated we won’t need one. Can we borrow a flail, to use on the Fergie to test it out? Or buy a powered flail to pull behind the Fergie. We can hire machinery as part of bright ideas, which might be what we have to do for the first cut this year.

**Funding group -** Paul to apply to Greggs for money for a compostable toilet. Wendy highlighted that it needs to be able to cater both men and women, unlike one she met in Skye. Wendy offered to help with funding bids once she finishes work in July.

**Marketing -** Michelle is going to do the marketing work for the bright ideas. Rachel to send round how much money was allocated against the different kinds of work for bright ideas. Ask Paul for the quote from Michelle so that we can formally review the brief for the work that she is going to do.

**Development plan**- Rachel to write a brief. So that the group can see what she is going to do.

**Leaflets** – Mick to chase this up.

**Display shelves**. Howarth has bought a stencil for the shelves, but the minimum size was too big for the boxes on the stand! So he is creating labels for the logo and to say what the veg is. The logo is not likely to fit the top of the shelves so agreed just to put Gibside Community Farm, as large as possible. Mick to ask the wood person to create a sign. Wendy raised a concern that people are overpaying through donation model, which might put them off returning to the stall and that there should be a suggested amount for the veg displayed, so that there was a guide for people to know how much to pay. Can Michelle test out whether the donation model is off-putting in her work?

**Website** – the website is now connected to Facebook. Can we find out what usage we are having on the website? Rachel to get the information on the site up to date. And put the membership information right. Rachel to ask Mel to take over the admin of the website.

**Field** – **Planning permission** – waiting for some quotes before finalising what we are doing. We need the final drawing before we apply and then it will last for 3 years. So not quite at the point of finalising what we are going to do.

**Building on field** – Howarth view of where we are – we have looked at truck bodies and containers – the most common form of truck body is fibre glass, but some people are worried about the risks involved with fibre glass (fire), we should be able to get a truck body that is not fibre glass but this might take longer and might not be insulated. Howarth is looking at the shorter truck body to avoid long joists, so go for a 22 foot truck body or 20 foot container. Choice is either: 2 containers or 2 truck bodies with either a pole barn built over, or cladding to go round. Howarth needs to get a quote for the cladding, and Mick is getting the quote for the pole barn, when we get those quotes we can make a decision!

**Hardcore** – quotes for hardcore are more than NT have allocated us and Mick M has asked Mick W to see if there is more money available.

**Mains water connection** – mick has contacted Northumbria Water to ask for a quote for a 35mm supply with a 20mm meter. This will put our existing quote up. The supply of water will be where the trough is. Agreed to go ahead with getting the water supply fitted.

**Land registration** – Garry is going to land registry with all the documentation in person, he has completed all the forms. We should be registered by next Thursday.

**Rural Payments Agency** - Garry has applied to rural payments agency and we will be registered soon. Garry to see if we still have 5 hectares after the trees/shelterbelt or until we plant the trees. Try and claim it for now.

**IBC water tanks** – we need to buy 2 IBC’s for this year, Alistair will fill them and put on the field. £35 each and £50 delivery. Therefore £120. Need to decide what fittings to get, (Mick to send website to Howarth) and agree tomorrow. Garry will order.

**Meeting dates** – Rachel has amended the list to move from Friday and Saturday mornings to Thursday evenings. Growers group – will now be on 4th May. Likely to need a sub group to appoint the grower.