**General meeting 19th March 2018 Red Kite**

Present, Garry, Wendy, Howarth, Rachel, Ed (NT), Mick

Apols

Chair: Garry

**Relationship with NT**

We went through the actions from the joint meeting with NT on social impact.

* **Defraying the rent** – Julie has had a conversation with Julia who has agreed that in principle defrayment of the rent is possible. As yet they do not have a figure in mind but they think it will be a partial defrayment. Claire, Julie and Ed with discuss this further, amongst themselves to get an understanding of the value that we bring to NT/ our social impact. They don’t need any more information from us. Ed reassured us that they want to support GCF and that they don’t want to squeeze us for the rent.
* **Meeting with Claire about display stands –** this has been arranged for March 23rd at 3pm.
* **Meeting with Ed about GCF/NT story –** this happened on Feb 23rd. Rachel has developed a marketing plan for GCF, so that we can try and fit with NT marketing plan and event programme. RP to write a short story for the joint history and why GCF exists and to talk to Lauren about fitting in with event programme. There are opportunities to do some promotion at beer and bite nights in the summer.
* **Regular meetings with NT team and GCF –** agreed that this would be good on a quarterly basis. Suggested 11th May at 3.30.

**Gate** – Julie has spoken to Julia and Alistair – “Alistair needs access to the field so moving the gate is not an option”. (this was the message from Julia). However, we explained to Ed that we were not denying Alistair access, we just want to move the gate. We explained where we wanted to move the gate to. Ed suggested that he come to the field to understand the issue better, possibly on Friday.

**Toilet/Netty area** – Julie has just sent GCF a message to say that the netty area will be needed for plant quarantine space after we have finished using it for chitting potatoes. We explained to Ed that we would still need some storage space, even if we can’t use the netty, that is dry and vermin proof. Ed to consider what space could be found instead

**Press release** – Rachel had sent Julie a draft press release to put out about the Awards for All funding and gave a quote to come from Julie. Julie thinks it should be a quote from a general manager and will get back to Rachel once she has got permission. She will also send to Victoria for advice.

**Portacabin** – Dennis Fleming is the man who currently has the portacabin. Julie has made contact with him and asked him to make arrangements for disconnecting phone and electricity and gave him Micks email address. Hopefully we will hear from him by end of the week.

**NT changes** – no farmers market for this year but might still do xmas market. They plan to have evening opening, fri and sat, from May to end sept to the whole estate and pub. This will mean anyone coming to the pub will have to be a member or pay to get in to the estate. It also means that from beginning of Oct the estate will shut at 6pm on Fridays (and 4 from Nov). This will affect our access to the estate after these times, ie bringing veg down to display shelves etc. We will need to find a solution for us for this.

GCF members being considered as NT vols? This would mean that we would get volunteer newsletters, be invited to briefings and volunteer socials and be able to have access to training and use of equipment. Ed thinks that there should be ways for all these things to be accessed without us becoming volunteers.

Ed left the meeting

**Walled Garden project update** - Debbie gave an update on the garden project to Mick and Paul today. It will go to national committee in July. 3 options –a) NT fully fund, b) offer a loan to Gibside to be paid back from additional income or c) be given permission to fundraise for the funds or d) project rejected completely. We will definitely have this year and next year for growing in the walled garden.

**Finance report**

£21,478 in bank. Made up of: Gateshead Capacity Fund £177.74, Berwick PV £2969, Bright Ideas £3022, Woodland Trust -£360 (we have put the next claim in but it has not yet been paid), Community Foundation (Leaf/trees) £2,300, Land Fund £115, Horticultural capital £1000, Awards for all £9999, Reserve £200, Unrestricted fund £2255.93.

Garry sent round the base budget. No discussion.

**AGM** – room booked at St Barnabas, costing £51. Wendy has done a poster to send out to members to highlight the event. RP to ask in GCF update for anyone interested in being a director. Rachel suggested that we have a slideshow running during the social and to have flip charts and post it notes for members to respond to a few questions, again during the social. Wendy and Rachel to discuss more and check the laptop and projector works.

**Entitlements** – we have bought these – we are now proper subsidised farmers. Garry has started to try and fill in the form online to claim the subsidy.

**Growers group** – Date set for next meeting for 6th April 4pm in hub

**Funding Group**

**Bright ideas** – marketing budget – Michelle has the list of items to buy. Growers budget – can pay for 12 days before end may and will have 5 days left over.

Ian is collecting implements next Monday and will try and get stables to help him take it off trailer (in the stables).

**Awards for all**

* **Gate and fence** – Mick has contacted 2 contractors and is arranging for them to come to field. Paul suggesting using wire fence and metal gate. Howarth had thought of twin rail (but this will be more expensive.) For the distance it will have to be a split gate.
* **Container** – cant do this until the portacabin is in.
* **Portacabin** – Howarth now has the postcode for where it currently is. The info from NT said that we would have to pay for an escort but Howarth had not got this info from portacabin when he got the quote. Howarth to have a conversation with team valley to refine the quote. Awards for All amount is the same as quote from Julie, so should be ok. Howarth to pass info on to Paul when he is ill. Mick suggested that we try and say we want a reduction because we are a good cause.
* **Water connection** – Garry has talked to the plumber who provided the quote. So process has started.
* **2 wheel tractor** – Rachel will contact company and ask how long the lead in time is for ordering.
* **Architectural brief** – Howarth has a list based on Iain Tolhurst’s recommendations for all the things we would need. Rachel questioned whether the barn would be over the container and portacabin or separate. Howarth’s list to be typed and sent round and then discussed at the next meeting for a half hour discussion. Needs to be ready sooner rather than later for power to change timetable.
* **Press release** – send to Victoria Gibson in NT and Mick to send out.

**Leader funding** – Mick still waiting to hear about boundaries and whether it can be used for match funding.

**Woodland Trust** – We spent against all of the first tranche and are now spending against the next tranche, even though it has not arrived yet. Grafting training happening on Sunday March 25th. Garry requesting pruning training in the autumn. Paul thinks scything training might be useful. The list of ideas of training has been sent to WT and they will let us know when this will be available.

**Publicity and membership**

**Street traders licence** – Mick has spoken to local councillor who has forwarded it to head of licencing.

**Membership** – 25 members have paid and we know that Maggy will re-join, so there are 2 people that we know of who are yet to pay.

**Marketing plan** – Rachel circulated a draft marketing plan which aims to promote events before they happen rather than publicise them after the event. We will be promoting general information about GCF now and be more specific about promoting the cropshare from May to July and then promote the display stands and then the markets. Mick will talk to Council News to try and get an article in there.

**Timetable of events** – this was circulated. Wendy and Rachel to set some specific dates for some of the events.

**Beamish agricultural show** – We agreed to do the show, Sept 13 – 16th with the Ferguson Club. WE will need to take the tractor and veg to sell.

**Members handbook** – many thanks to Wendy for compiling and designing it. Rachel to put it on website

**Website** - Rachel has struggled to put new page on but has now asked for help from James.

**Markets** – Mick has got paperwork but not filled in yet.

**Date of next meeting** - Red kite 7.30 12 April.

**AOB** – Garry has been asked to do an input on GCF to the next permaculture course.