**General meeting 12th April 2018 Red Kite**

Present Paul, Garry, Rachel, Mick, Jola

Apols Howarth, Wendy

Chair Paul

**Barn design discussion,** Howarth has listed all the areas required that Iain Tolhurst suggested in his report. Additional spaces not listed that we need are Kitchen/processing space, washing space (for future use, but not now), retail area. And an enclosed social space as well as an open social area. Go along with Howarth’s estimates of physical space. Howarth to send the specifications with these additions to mick who will then send to the green architects.

**Discussion whether the barn goes over the portacabin and container, or if it is beside them**. Mick thinks it would look a mess keeping the portacabin and container visible. Rachel argued that we would be wasting the cost of the space if we put it under the barn as it would mean that we would not have as much additional space than if it was beside it. Mick suggested that part of the cost of the new building can be covered by people coming to learn how to build a straw building so we shouldn’t be so worried by the cost of the barn. This issue was not resolved/agreed.

**Man and finance -** £24903 on books. Unrestricted £1335. Ian has put in invoice for tractor £339. Agreed this can come out of bright ideas. We have 26 members.

**AGM** – Rachel suggested the slideshow and flipcharts this was agreed. A possible topic for discussion could be no dig or low tillage farming, raised by Jola. It was agreed that this could be a topic for a film/discussion night with members and others.

**Data protection** – we handle members data therefore we have a responsibility to keep the data safe. We need a policy and then ensure we action the policy. Mick will ask CVS whether we have to register. Adapt a policy from someone else – Paul will do this.

**Growers group**

**Date** for next meeting agreed 4.30 pm 11th May after meeting with NT.

**Rhubarb proposal** – NT (national) want to process rhubarb into a drink and want an NT property to grow the rhubarb. NT have linked with Luscombe drink co to do the processing. Mick offered GCF. We would be paid by Luscombe for the rhubarb. We would like NT to pay for the crowns. We can pay the money back to NT if the project works. Proposal to grow 100 mature crowns which can be harvested this year and plant them in the tree alleyways. Need labour for planting and for harvesting. Agreed in principle for us not taking the risk. We will wait to see if NT accept this.

**Workshare leads** – Rachel will take the lead on the field on Mondays, Paul will take the lead on Fridays on the field. Rachel to ask if anyone wants to do this role in the walled garden on Fridays.

**Funding group**

**Power2 change** – need to make a decision – do we apply in this window? Paul consulted with Debbie and her view is that Power2 change will go on for another 5 years. This window starts 22 April and closes 22nd May. They are very keen on community involvement. She is happy with our business planning side but we will need more evidence for the community involvement. Garry’s view is that the barn design will take 6 months before its ready, so we can’t apply until that is ready. Agreed that we would not apply in the window.

**Community business weekend** - power2change initiative – 4th – 7th May – do we take part? Rachel suggests we do something on the Monday and ask people to come and join us. Paul to ask Wendy if she is interested in publicising the event. 11 – 2. Paul to register us.

**Gateshead volunteer fund** £500 do we want to apply? Maildrop to advertise the event in June 23rd field open tour. Leaflet? They are interested in volunteering. Or have a designed template leaflet? But they didn’t give us the money last year. Mick will fill in the application.

**Bright ideas final report** – Paul has sent round the template. Paul is happy to write it and it has to be done in next 2 weeks.

**Bright ideas** – michelle’s spend, we have not heard what progress she has made.

**Awards for all, Gate and fence** – Mick has got a price £400 - £500 plus vat for a 4 bar wooden fence with wooden gate or aluminium. Looks nicer to have the 4 rails. And have a hedge later. Agreed 4 rail wood and full length wooden gate and will get a proper costing. We will need to buy chains and a good lock and another to go around the hinges. Agreed to delay the gate until the portacabin is on the field. But to get the contractor to do the gate on the same day.

**Container** – delay until portacabin.

**Portacabin** – Howarth has 2 quotes which are rough estimates. The electricity has been disconnected but not the telephone, Julie Hawthorn knows that it needs doing. Julie Hawthorn has the name of another haulage company to try. This needs forwarding to Howarth. We need a more detailed quote from those that have provided quotes so far. Agreed the jack pad quote of £420.19 and jacks.

**Water connection** – Garry has contacted the plumber and Garry told him to go ahead. Garry has moved the position of the standpipe so it is in line with the entrance of the portacabin.

**Press release** Julie has not got back to RP

**Leader funding** – certain categories in leader where there is not a problem with match funding. Has been told it is farming, so now waiting for an answer.

**Woodland trust** – 45% tranche has now arrived. We have spent some of it already. We have a lot of money for training and events, but we are not spending against them yet. But we want more trees but we can’t buy more trees with these funds. We do need to do some events. We need some proposals for events and training. Ask members at AGM. Espaliers/cordons training course.

**Relationship with NT**

No news from Julie H re **gate**

**Video** – we can use this now as reference to NT has been edited out. Mick Wilks’ view is that Jane’s comments did not show how much work the NT had done to support us and we did not just pitch in to help NT out. We need to explain the history better to members. Can we ask Helen to do more videos for the agroforestry? Can offer money/expenses. RP to talk to her.

**NT visit to field** – NT national managers and consultants came to the field on wed. it went positively. They were impressed with what we had achieved.

**Apple weekend** – in principle yes we will join in but RP to find out more.

**Markets** - Decision not to do markets on Saltwell park or Baltic sq. agreed to do the Chopwell market on 16 june.