

BRIDGEND FARMHOUSE AGM MINUTES 16.6.19

Present: 36 shareholder members and 16 others, see separate attendance list.

Apologies: Kevin McGlynn (chair – due to illness), Pat Brechin and 14 others

Welcome: Everyone was welcomed to the new poly-tunnel at the farmhouse at the end of our summer party. It was explained that this is the first AGM of Bridgend Farmhouse Community Benefit Society, the new organisation taking over from Bridgend Inspiring Growth, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Chair's Report: In the absence of Kevin McGlynn, Will Golding gave the annual report on the achievements of Bridgend (both organisations). A 6-page written report was circulated and Will highlighted our special commendation in the SCVO Celebrating Communities Awards, our award for “architecture for the common good” from the Royal Institute of British Architects and Kevin Morrison’s Trustee of the Year Award. He noted that we’ve had three ministerial visits during the year to find out about our work and to launch various government initiatives.

He went on to mention: our share issue which raised over £70,000, from 404 shareholders, the achievements of our food and kitchen training programme, the heritage project, the volunteer-run café, the wood-work, crafts, singing, guitar and writing groups, the youth group, the Acorn Fund for new projects, the bike station and the bothy build. Our regular Sunday and Wednesday drop-in days have continued, as has our programme of community events – family fun days, Bonfire night, Christmas party, Burns supper, family Easter event and today’s summer party.

He thanked all those who had made everything happen: the volunteers, the full time staff Donna McArdle, Ros Angus and the part time staff Hilary Lawson, Carol Stobie, Steven Murray, Alan Mitchell, Eric Fernandez-Baca. He also thanked the 12 members of the board of trustees and noted that there was now a new chair, new secretary and new treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: Shaun McLaughlin said this year’s Bridgend Farmhouse accounts were very simple since they are the first for the new organisation and it did not start day-to-day transactions until after the end of the financial year 31st March 2019. He quoted from the Independent Examiner’s Report by accountant Arthur Akugbo which shows total funds at £105,059, of which £70,764 is unrestricted funds from our share issue. The meeting approved a motion disapplying the need for an auditor in view of the fact that our income was below the legal threshold of £250,000. There was one vote against. Shaun went on to outline how the board was planning for the future, with a budget in place for the next two years, including a reserve fund, plans to increase our self-funding and funding applications to grant giving bodies.

Development Manager's Report: Donna McArdle said she only wanted to add a few words to the chair's report by emphasising four key points. Our kitchen and café are now operating six days a week, feeding an average of 700 people a month and all done largely by volunteers. She said the "real work" of Bridgend was carried out by the three working groups – the land and buildings group, the activities group and the business and finance group and she wished to thank them. One of the outstanding features of Bridgend, she said, was its diversity...serving a wide variety of groups: children, teenagers, pensioners, able-bodied volunteers, disabled and vulnerable people. And finally, she hoped that Bridgend's example of successful asset transfer and community empowerment would be copied by other community projects across the country.

Election of Trustees: Nominations were received for: Kevin McGlynn, Will Golding, Claire Stevens, John Knox, Henry Wilson, Niel Hansen, Kevin Morrison, Lynn Colombo, Sally Swan and Pat Brechin. There were no objections. It was noted that six of the possible 12 trustees live in the farmhouse's "area of benefit" and all trustees nominated and elected are shareholders.

Any other business: none.

Next AGM: Arrangement will be made for Bridgend Farmhouse's next AGM in about a year's time.