

Millennium Farm Trust

AGM Minutes 2021

24th September 2pm at Depden Care Farm

Present

Jerry Massey	Nicola King	Richard Turner
Helen Wilson	Victoria Otterson	Chris Robinson
Tim Freathy	Rhys Wendholt	Billy Dolton
Richard Ayres	Danielle Wendholt	Ted Sullivan
Ann Snaith	Mark Leadbeater	Jade Underhill
Karen Cowan	Jayne Williamson	Derek Bowery
	Rachel Hall	Michael Morgan

Apologies for absence

Peter Turner	Andrew Hunter
Amanda O'Neil	Nicola Hunter
Lou Wells	Sam Mortlock

Welcome – Jerry Massey

Jerry welcomed everyone to a very sunny AGM and remarked how nice it was to be meeting in person, unlike last year during lockdown, when we held the AGM via Zoom.

Chairman's Report – Jerry Massey

All of us are aware that the past 18 months have been a challenging period and this has had an impact on the daily life of Depden Care Farm. However, I, and the other members of the Board, are so proud of how the farm helpers, Tim, the staff and volunteers have worked together to manage the emergence from period of lockdown in May 2020 to ensure that today the Farm is looking at its very best.

The Care Farm is constantly changing and evolving. We are always seeking new ways to enhance what we can offer the farm helpers. This past year has been no exception. Having signed a new lease for the smallholding we have been able to attract external funds to upgrade key elements of the farm.

As you tour the farm later this afternoon, you will be able to see the major building works that have taken place over the past year or so. The Trustees have worked hard to secure over £100,000 of external funding (including a major contribution from the national lottery) to enable a range of projects to be carried out.

These works include an upgrade and extension to our accessible paths network and a major refurbishment and extension of our HQ and indoor training and meeting room space. This work has also provided new accessible wash rooms – it seems a long time ago we had to rely on 'temporary' Portaloos. This investment will ensure that we have adequate and appropriate space for all indoor activities and we are able to operate in a modern and secure environment for many years to come.

*In helping us deliver these new buildings I would like to acknowledge the very generous contribution from a dear friend of the Care Farm, **Peter Cox**. Peter designed the new layout, secured the all-important planning consent and helped us deliver this project.*

The building work is entering the final phase of completion. We are just waiting for the delivery of key materials to enable us to finish the link between the old HQ and the modular extension. When this is done, we will be able to complete the new access arrangements to the front of the HQ building. In time we are also looking to provide a new veg shed to establish an attractive area to display our fresh fruit and veg for sale. We also have plans to complete the accessible path network around the site. Clearly there is a lot to look forward to in the year ahead.

*Finally, although not strictly within the timescale of this annual report, I must say a massive well done to the farm helpers and students from our feeder schools and west suffolk college for the work they did with our artist in residence, **Cally Jones**. They have created a wonderful and unique floor to our outdoor kitchen. The trustees never cease to be amazed by the hidden talents that exist on this farm and this new floor is an excellent example of what can be achieved.*

Awards

Despite being at the very start of the academic year, and the start of our professional development programme (RARPA), Jerry was delighted be able to award *A Certificate of Achievement, Farm Machinery 1: Mowing* to Michael Morgan. Well done Michael.

Treasurers Report – Helen Wilson

The accounts or 2019-2020, discussed at last years AGM, were now being checked by Paul Raven the accountant KPSK and independent auditor. They will be summited to Companies House shortly.

Helen recommended that we continue to use Paul as the accountant for 2021/22.

Proposed by Jerry Massey and seconded by Tim Freathy.

Helen distributed a statement of financial activity for the financial year 20/21.

Clearly Covid has had an impact on the figures with the farm being closed during the lockdown period so year on year variances are less meaningful, nevertheless, we have emerged from the pandemic in strong financial position.

Our total income for the year was £293k of which £185k is from the attendance fees and £103k from grants and donations. The attendance fees cover the day to day running costs of the farm and the grants and donations are for projects.

We had Lottery grants for the new toilet block, HQ, outside furniture, paths and we received council grants related to Covid. We also had a number of donations for which we are very grateful and these include Towerbridge, Moncrieff Trust, Scarfe Trust, a number of local businesses; Bedfords Estate Agents, Bernhard and Co, Glasswells, Depden Church and a number of anonymous donations.

In addition, we sold nearly £4.5k worth of produce which is grown, produced and made on the farm.

Our total expenditure for the year was £296k. I'll just outline a few of the larger costs. Staff and director costs account for £119.4k which is mainly salaries and training. The cost of looking after the animals is £11.5k and plants and seeds another £3.7k. Other farm consumables such as fencing and tools account for £6.3k. The rent paid was £12.7k We have also spent £127k on the projects I've already referred to; HQ, toilet block, completion of the outside kitchen (plumbing work).

Jerry thanked Helen for the financial report and reiterated what a strong financial position the charity was in, thanking Tim, the staff and farm helpers for their part in making the farm such a success.

Election of Officers

Tim Freathy reported that all those that currently hold positions are willing to stand again for a further term:

Jerry Massey – Chair

Louisa Wells – Treasurer

Nicola Hunter – Secretary

Tim proposed that they be elected en masse, this was proposed by Helen Wilson and seconded by Karen Cowan. They were all duly elected.

AOB

There was no other business.

Jerry asked for any further questions or clarifications before he closed the meeting.

Derek Bowering asked what "farm consumables" meant on the accounts. Tim answered that it was anything on the farm that was not directly related to the animals or to our trading – plants, seeds, woodwork etc, For example, it included things like gravel for the paths, fencing, mulch, electric fence materials, wheelbarrows and tools.

Jerry thanks people for attending and closed the meeting at 2.40pm