

Bruntsfield Community Greengrocer t/a Dig in Bruntsfield AGM 2020 Minutes of Meeting

10th February 2020

Location: Christ Church Centre, 6a Morningside Road

Welcome and introductions

Isla welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves briefly. Broad representation from our membership, volunteer base and regular customers interested in finding out more.

Due to the snowy weather had to make apologies on behalf of our speaker for this evening, Sarah-Jane Allsop from Castle Douglas Community Forum and Sara Stevenson from the Astley Ainslie Community Trust.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Approved with the following corrections:

Morag Jones and Hillary Hamilton were also in attendance

Chair's report – Isla McCulloch

Review of chair's report and highlights of the year. Another successful year with 20% increase in turnover and increased staff capacity.

Discussed reserves policy and some of the Brexit contingency planning. Discussed business planning for new premises and the challenge of finding suitable premises at a reasonable rent. Acknowledged that staff continue to work in challenging discussions downstairs.

General question and answer session with members covering:

- Work to prepare for new premises if appropriate opportunity arises, including priority to improve working conditions for staff and volunteers
- Further investment in the business – being prepared for new share offer if capital investment were needed for e.g. shop move
- Potential to explore community buy-out option
- Reserves policy implemented
- Withdrawable of shares

Annual accounts – Diane Finnie

Business continues to look healthy, which is why it was possible to develop the reserves policy. Reinvesting some other profit in improving staff terms and conditions.

Appointment of auditors

Diane proposed that we do not appoint auditors – approved.

Motions

Discussion of changes to the following clauses in our Model Rules:

Clause 8.1 Motion to reduce the value of single share from £25 to £5.

This is to allow us to grow our membership of the organisation while hopefully reducing any financial barriers for people to join us. If you bought a share for £25 (or more) it will still be worth the same amount and we will be updating our records to ensure you would be considered to own 5 x £5 shares (or equivalent).

Motion approved with 2/3 majority of members present. This was after a interesting debate on the following:

Management Committee described motivation behind this change is to broaden the pool of membership to encourage more community members to engage with the Society and broaden participation. Plan is to maintain an open, inclusive and active membership, with an eye to involving new people in the management committee over time and enable liquidity of share capital.

It was raised by a volunteer to pay the £25 minimum share was a financial barrier but that they would consider paying in instalments if possible.

Members raised important point that we need to be clear in our communication with the community / customers about what 'membership' means and the benefits of being a shareholder member. It was noted by staff that there are a lot of things that we need to communicate / answer with customers on a regular basis). Some capacity building of volunteers around the key questions customers might ask about our governance and perhaps some additional signage might help with this.

Followed by more general discussion of how Dig in is at the forefront of this form of governance, and we have an opportunity to drive the key messages.

Clause 4.11 Motion to reduce the quorum for Members Meetings from 10% of total members (currently around 320) to 5% of total members

Motion approved by 2/3 majority of members present.

Nominations

Chelsea Marshall resigned from the Management Committee.

Fiona Liddle and Ann McFall stood for the Management Committee. Both shared why they wanted to get involved with the Committee and explained how their experience would support the aims of the Society.

Nominations for Fiona Liddle and Ann McFall approved by members present.

AOB

Hopes for a Better Food Future

Morag and Fiona attended the Nourish Conference in November, with a bursary from Dig in, and have met to discuss ways to take this engagement into the shop community. There will be a new noticeboard in the shop and future events planned around this theme.

AGM closed.

Attendees (18 members, 8 non-members)

Angela Nicholson
Ian Smith
Morag Jones
Robin Woodburn
Francis Valentine
Sue Lane
Lulu Flowers
Morven Lyon
Diane Finnie
Pauline Bispham
Anne Schwan
Stephen Shapiro
Chelsea Marshall
Isla McCulloch
Ann McFall
Barbara Darcy
Gregor McElvogue
Lynne ??
Peter Brett
Janet Balloch
Pacian Clayton
Kate Corbett
Steph Marsden
Amanda Lake
Jenna ??
Catherine Francis

Apologies

Janet Alison
David Bennett
Robyn Dawson
Kenny Gunn
Hilary Hamilton
Claire Hutchins

Fiona McGivern
Elaine Mason
David Nichols