

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Annual General Meeting: 20 September 2022 at 6.00pm

MINUTES

Present: (Board - all BHFP Members): Victoria Williams (VW) (Chair), Sue Paskins, Ollie Sykes, Jeremy Diaper, Barbara Hurwood
Alan Lugton, Noleen Keane, Sarri Tapales, Fiona Hamilton, Emily OBrien, Mary Funnell, Rose Elliott, Meara OBrien, Michael Creedy

Staff

Vic Borrill, Jo Glazebrook, Helen MacGregor, Rob Drysdale, Ali Ghanimi, Ruth Smart, Jess Crosker, Shelley Taylor, Stephanie Motzek, Cathy Atherton, Rosie Linford, Libby Akehurst

Others:

Erik Millstone, Chizuko Masuda, Rachel Durrant, Magdalena Pasiut

Claire Potter Circular Economy and Plastic Free Brighton & Hove - Speaker
Rachel Brown Minutes

Meeting commenced at 6.22pm

Apologies received from: Cllr Siriol Hugh Jones, Susanna Salts, Jeff Howard, Georgina Burrows, Erika Adler, Athol Halle, Jo Ralling.

1. **Welcome and introductions**

VW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minutes from last AGM held on 20 September 2021**

The Minutes of the 2021 AGM were agreed as a true record.

Proposed by: Jeremy Diaper

Seconded by: Sue Paskins

3. **Announcement of Board Members**

a) **Board Members stepping down**

Sue Paskins had been a Board member for 9 years and a presentation was made in recognition of her service. Kate Kirkham stood down in January. Jeff Howard wished to step down but will continue for another year in order to handover to new Board members.

b) **Election of new Board members**

VW had circulated a paper explaining the composition of the Board and the 3 sections were explained. This year, 3 applications had been received to join the board:

- Group A - Fiona Hamilton to be co-opted, then elected next year.
- Group B – James Woodward has agreed to stand for election.
- Group C - Nolene Keane will stand for election.

Following a show of hands, 8 members plus 1 proxy vote approved the election.

4. **Report on work for the year**

Presentation by Vic Borrill outlining highlights since the last AGM.

- Slide 1 – B&HFP (about)
- Slide 2 – Our Work (aims)
- Slide 3 – 2021/22 a year of transition
- Slide 4 – Community Kitchen
- Slide 5 – Hub for information, connection and inspiration
- Slide 6 – Work with Community led food projects
- Slide 7 - Gardens
- Slide 8 – Stanmer Wellbeing Gardens
- Slide 9 – Community Composting
- Slide 10 – Food Strategy Research Projects
- Slide 11 – Aim to be a well-run organisation
- Slide 12 – New Work

Questions / Comments:

Michael Creedy asked about rewilding in Brighton and Hove, also in the seas (kelp and seaweeds). VB was aware of one project for the sea. Rewilding (Changing Chalk project) - BHFP currently have a meanwhile lease on the building at Waterhall. Farming issues are more problematic – the Land Use project is looking at this. VB would follow up on the sea project and kelp suggestion. **ACTION VB**

Mary Funnell mentioned the huge local oyster industry in 1890s which was contaminated after the industrial revolution and then sewage outfalls – this needs to be cleaned up.

Noleen Keane asked about compost tumblers versus boxes: VB said Patchwork run these and are looking at the best way to use tumblers. There were many questions which they are currently trying to work out.

Chizuko Masuda felt more importance should be given to ideas to educate people (especially children) to learn about wasting food and water. VB said Community Kitchen have 8 local schools visit to learn cooking. Claire Potter would address other educational issues in her presentation.

5. **Presentation of Annual Accounts**

Summary of annual accounts to March 2022. VB explained the accounts were shared at the AGM, then the Board will formally adopt them at the next Board meeting (they have already seen the figures). As BHFP are not a charity, small company accounts have to be prepared.

Slide 1 – income/expenditure:

Income of £220,000 since last year (next year expected to dissipate). Some corporation tax may be due this year.

Slide 2 – Sources of income

Slide 3 – Deferred income

Slide 4 – Expenditure

Questions/Comments:

There were no questions.

6. **Any other business**

There being no other business, the AGM closed at 7.00pm

Presentation by guest speaker Claire Potter – Circular Economy and Plastic Free Brighton and Hove

Claire explained her mission to embed the circular economy within education and her specialism in marine plastics (funding received from various sources including EU). Her interest in ecology went back to junior school but reduce/reuse/recycle was her mantra. The circular economy was explained and how it works; especially that 80% of the environmental impact being decided at the design stage. The Circular Schools Project in Brighton & Hove was explained - Blueprint pilot on-line 10-week project looking at plastics, food, stuff and climate in schools.

Questions:

Michael Creedy asked about new products being made from bamboo which which does not fit into the circular economy and ends up composted or landfill. Claire said it was an amazing material but doesn't grow here so contributes many travel miles, however it depends on its purpose - ie flooring was very hardwearing. Dell created an eco computer some years ago that went into the plastics recycling and contaminated all the other plastics. Designers need to understand this when creating products and considering end of life.

VB said back in 2019, there was a real energy about reducing plastic but the pandemic changed this. Claire said beach cleans identified face-masks were discarded which were toxic and caused entanglement - this happened across Europe. Beach cleans continue with waste audits. Also, Covid risk identified on using reusable coffee cups and single-use was considered safer. Next March a pilot project using stainless steel reusable containers hopes to identify barriers to usage before rolling-out across the city.

Ollie Sykes asked in relation to the Ellen Mcarthey Foundation – does circular economy go with globalisation? Claire explained what EMF does is not seen in large organisations globally, therefore starting locally will help.

VB thanked Claire Potter for her presentation – an exciting project and the power of what can be done locally.

The formal meeting closed at 7.28pm