

COCA Core Group September 11th 2014

present : Stuart Johnson (SJ) , Gerald Miles (GM), Caz Miles (CM), Gill Lewis (GL), Rhiannon Tate (RT) Dave Hunter (DH), Gabrielle Sloane(GS), apologies ; Antony Bullock (AB), Dave Thomas (DT), Nathan Walton (NW). Anne Curran (AC)

Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct.

Matters arising :

1. **action from July Core meeting** : SJ has put a link on COCA website from the "About Us" page to the minutes of Core.
2. AC has initiated **fruit and grocery ordering through CMOrganics**. Several promotional messages sent out and on website. Slow start but six orders were placed this week. Good addition to COCA membership benefits.
3. **Accident book** has been bought. Kept in Share Shed with First Aid.
4. **Salad boxes** were bought. Salad sales have now ceased. **ACTION :GM** to finalise accounting upto end August with AB
5. **Big Lottery Fund** application for Cartef COCA building : we will know result in 2 weeks.
6. **VegWare:** should have received first input £100 in August. Need to send brief monthly report to them **ACTION : AB** to check that Vegware money has been received. **GM and GS** to compose report.
7. **Members involvement questionnaire** : see meeting agenda item.
8. **Promotion** : posters were put around, but no new enquiries yet!.
9. **Company procedures:** No report from AB. NW still working on PAVs for accountancy help for local community groups. **ACTION NW**.
10. **Harvest Party Friday August 29th**: was a roaring success and made a profit of £1934.34. Fantastic effort by all concerned, much enjoyed and has people talking about COCA again. DT thanked especially for all the promotion and funding and organisational work he put in for months beforehand. The UNA volunteers specifically for the party preparation were essential, so that Woofers staying at the same time could continue with growing work. (At one stage there were 8 Woofers and 8 UNA volunteers all on the farm ... it was a wonderful atmosphere generally and a great deal got done). Even so it was rush to the finish prep for the party and stress levels were high in the last week!. Feedback from the UNA was that they would like more explicit description of work to be done in the project, improved daily scheduling of tasks. The standard of food and accommodation was adequate Thinking ahead to next year (HP15?) agreed to look at expanding to a 2 day event with food-focussed events, workshops and speakers during day (eg scything competition and demos, apple pressing, cookery demos) looking at last weekend before the late August Bank Holiday. Agreed, set up an HP15 Working Group with first sessions in November 14. **ACTION SJ to ask DT** if he will facilitate this working group. RT will assist. Other vols sought.
11. **from Growers Report in August:** Caz now confirms that he will be taking leave to work at Refinery from September 23rd for 6 to 10 weeks. GM will stand in as COCA grower with voluntary assistance from RT (1 or 2 days per week), GL (one day per week) plus others **ACTION CM** co-ordinate with **GM and GL** in next week as to work to be done.

AGENDA

1. **Financial report** : unavailable. Discussion of allocation of profit from Harvest Party deferred til next meeting as a result. **ACTION ; AB** report for next Core meeting.
2. **Current funding applications** : no report that Vegware monthly £100 being paid in **Action: AB** to check accounts. WE need to provide a short monthly report to Vegware of core activities. **Action : GM + RT**

3. **Mememrship report** : loss of 1 large share (moving out of county) and 1 small share (at the Ark in H'west) but will stay as non-share member.... problems with drop off times. One new small share at TYF. **Action** : DT to encourage Nick and Barb from Coppicewood to join.
4. **Questionnaire for members helping with running of COCA**: Stuart will make one on-line as well as paper copy in share shed. Possible telephone follow up. Hope to show that people can be involved without attending meetings. Test out on Core people first **Action** : SJ
5. **New drop off points** : nothing happening re Fishguard as no new members there yet. Other possible sites: Gourmet Pig or outside Transition Cafe could be used : **Action** GS to ask . Agreed that if and when drop off points are set up, the delivery person to be offered cost of fuel for the trip. Agreed there needs to be more poster promotion in the Fishguard area **Action** : DH will display posters.
6. **Growers report**: drought has affected growth and the carrot crop in particular has suffered. God production from the polytunnels. Hand weeding continues to be a problem, even with this season's record number of WWOofers. With CM being away for 6 weeks, consistent local volunteer days needed as well as more WWOOfers in autumn and winter.
7. **Volunteers**: GM presented summary of WWOofer input this year and the cost. (attached) The paid grower (CM) in reality is earning £5 an hour. This is not really sustainable, and members probably not aware of how cheap their share is, given the labour needed to grow it. Further investigate option of a paid internship through Careers Wales. **Action** : GL to ask Rupert for more info. Promote volunteering ... RT has filmed interviews with vols Clement and Colline, to go on YouTube etc, advertising the positive outcomes.. Further action on this in future.

AOB :

- GM to spend £60 on green paint for field shelter to help camouflage it.
- new scales for the Share Shed : GS to spend max £100 for at least 2 more digital scales.
- Water heater in vols' caravan broken. GM to get one for £85 including fitting.
- Spoon carving course to be offered at COCA by DH.. agreed.
- Harvest Feast/ Supper to be organised for early October Action GL
- Xmas event to be organised by RT, discuss next meeting

**Date of next meeting : October 9th 2014 7.00pm for 7.15pm start
Caerhys**