

Core Meeting : November 23rd 2015

Caerhys Farm , 7pm

present: Gill Lewis (GL), Gerald Miles (GM), Caz Miles (CM), Anthony Bullock(AB), Rosie Alderwick (member/observer), Dave Thomas (by Skype) (DT)

apologies : Stuart Johnson, Nathan Walton, Gabrielle Sloane

Minutes of previous meeting accepted .

Growers Report : old crops cleared and most of field ploughed and sowed to green manures. Some good dry weather enabled the leeks, carrots and cabbages to be weeded for the last time. Winter onions have been planted out through plastic, but not in the shelter area as hoped because the sweetcorn took so long to ripen that the weather had changed by the time the corn could be cleared and now too wet to prepare soil. Both polytunnels have been cleared and are all planted up with winter crops of salads, orientals and carrots. First orientals are already being cropped weekly. Crops in the field are low on cabbages, sprouts and broccolis (we just didn't plant out enough at the right time). Kale is plentiful; carrots and beetroot are coming on, Swedes are doing well enough and there is plenty of swiss chard in shelter for cropping next spring. Really good crops of leeks to last through til March or April. The badgers have been kept at bay by the electric fence. A fencer unit for COCA has been bought.

The members get-together to discuss the seeds to be bought for next year has not been organised yet ..
. ACTION GL

Promotion and Membership : no promotion work this month .Membership stands at 24 full, 22 half for Caerhys collection plus 2 full and 5 half at the hubs in Haverfordwest and Goodwick ... total 53 shares (including work shares)

Pembrokeshire Life On-line, set up by Ken Mahoney might be a way of reaching more people.

ACTION : Rosie A to enquire.

Monthly Photo Competition for members ... to be used for a calendar or promotion next year .

ACTION DT to set up.

New poster needed to put up around in shops and pubs, plus a revamped brochure, based (for the time being) on the existing brochures, but with alteration to prices, drop-off places and up date a couple of photos. More inspirational stuff, events, volunteers etc. ACTION GL and Rosie A

Finance : Harvest Party final profit of £1900 after all costs taken. Better than first thought! Well done .. and thanks to all who helped. Accounts stand at £4300 in Acc 1 and £240 in Acc 2 (Cartref). Corporation tax of £418 has been paid. AB has chased up all members who had not raised their share payments, and now only one member remains who hasn't changed. AB has prepared a job description of the Finance / Treasurer post ... now we need to find someone to do the job voluntarily from late March.

Core : active membership is almost below quorum now so we must advertise it to membership again to get more involvement. Treasurer/ Finance, plus Membership plus Events facilitators are urgently needed. Rosie A offering to help with events (with others in a "job-share"). Request to members via the web-blog .
ACTION DT

Cartref : going extremely well, but still a long way to go. Timbers have been ordered, delivered and paid for for door and window fittings. First coat of lime render put on during a very successful volunteer day (12 people!), but since then the weather has been bad . Starting on second coat hopefully this week. Turf roof is ¾ completed ... again needs drier weather before the last sods can be lifted into place.

Fundraising for the completion of the project still needs to be addressed We need to complete the internal layout design so as to cost the fitting out, and then can ask for crowd funding (maybe) Also Co-op development fund can be approached . Possibly £800 to £1000 shortfall for water, electric , internal walls, shelving, kitchen ,fittings and external fencing and herb garden..

ACTION DT et al.

Volunteers : woofers finished for the season now ... we have had the joy of some remarkable people again this year, and we thank them all. 2 EVS volunteers next year will be with us (if funds approved by Erasmus) from early February,

Caravans: need to be wintered and bedding stored

ACTION GL

The top caravan destroyed in the gale last Friday ... just hours after the last pair of woofers left! Roof torn off. A new van has been offered to us 35ft x 12ft. It needs some work doing on it, and will cost £350 to hire a crane to lift it into place. Old caravan needs to be dismantled as well ...a volunteer day?

ACTION GM

WiFi for the caravans ... we should sort out a decent signal, if only so that EVS volunteers can do office work for COCA down there. Contact local aerial company (Dragon wifi or 1a Aerials) for quote for wifi independent of Miles households (could it be fitted into Cartref?) ACTION GM

Three month notice of closing membership : problems that the majority of members forget that they have signed up to give three months notice of stopping their standing orders. It can be difficult to hold people to that “rule”. In practise, each leaving case is treated differently, after discussion with Membership Sec. However, it was AGREED that in principal the three month notice of leaving should stand. Reasons: it is a core value of supporting the farm; it gives COCA a measure of financial security, it encourages commitment to the csa. However, it can be waived in cases of hardship.

Carbon Footprint : put off to next meeting.

Date of next meeting : early January. date and venue to be decided.