

BHG 10th AGM meeting held on Zoom 19.09.20

Present: Beki, Richard and Deena, Pauline, Salima, Peter, Kim, Siobhan, Richard (C), Barbara.

Apologies: Steve, Kate, Ruth

Last year's minutes:

As reported in meeting minutes 24.05.19 agreed as a correct record.

Reports:

See Annual report 2020 for full statements.

Chair:

Beki reported she took over as chair earlier in the year from Kate who is retiring, many thanks to her for all her work in getting the project started, sourcing funding, and growing the goat herd and its milking team.

It's been a difficult time in Covid but with modern technology it has been possible to communicate effectively, continue with project management, and keep work across all the portions going.

Future projects being worked on are a tool library and a community orchard.

Treasurer:

Richard reported the post has been handed over to Steve and he is now standing down. Many thanks for all the sage advice and patient explanation of the numbers. The current value of the project is £1,722.00. With no kid sales this year and no Christmas Ball and the Auction of Promises it will be a struggle without new fundraising.

Bees:

Richard reported he anticipates less honey this year than last; due to Covid he will do the extraction himself but will need help with shutting down for the winter.

Due to his age he is hoping to be able to hand over more of the bee work to others in the portion in due course.

Ducks:

Beki reported the ducks are currently looked after as part of the goat portion but will be set up separately once they are old enough to begin laying.

Currently there are a lot of drakes, only one will be kept on site with the ducks, the others will be moved to Beki's garden where they will be grown on for Christmas.

Goats:

Beki reported that she has taken over as portion leader from Kate, many thanks for leading since the project began.

Covid has not greatly impacted the group as milking is already done in a shift system with nine separate households. The goats are now registered with a new vet and are looking healthy. Juniper is due to return to the herd soon and will be kept as a milker if she makes a reasonable size but may be too small as she is half pygmy.

Talks about a joint milking arrangement for next year with Henrietta continue, as our two remaining milkers must be rested next season.

Vegetables:

Pauline reported she has taken over from Beki as portion leader.

Working parties have carried on in pairs on different days, and are now reconvened into a group of six once a week.

Harvest is in full flow and winter crops are coming on. Year on year the soil and productivity improves.

Election of management group:

The following members agreed to stand: Beki, Richard and Deena, Pauline, Kim, Steve (in absence). Absent members will be canvassed for interest in participating in the core group although the meetings will remain open to all members.

Election of officers will be held at the first management meeting following the AGM.

AOB and Questions:

Siobhan asked about being able to work in the bee portion, she has her own bee suit and has kept bees in the past but would like more training. A messenger group will be set up to allow arrangements for socially distanced participation.

Working on the goat field; Salima and her family will be coming over once a week, Beki and Tom are also meeting up to do particular jobs.

Peter asked about the future of the vegetable garden on Chapel Field; discussions on the lease are still ongoing with Jenny to resolve any concerns she has.

Kenny has already agreed to sign another lease on the goat field, paperwork is in hand.

Pauline commented that as a whole group we need to brainstorm alternative ways of raising money now our usual sources are not available due to Covid. Beki will set up a messenger group for the whole membership as this is working very well in the individual portions.

PW 24.09.20