

Bath City Farm
Company Number: 03112751
(the 'Farm' or 'Charity')

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Company, held at Bath City Farm
Kelston View, Whiteway, Bath, BA2 1NW on 12 October 2024 at 10.45am.

Present: Thomas Shephard, Brendan Tate Wistreich, Mark Richardson, Gwen James, Philippa Rogers, Steve Mayhew, Chris Button, Cerys Blades, Amanda Loran, Mike Williams, Deborah Steele, Malcolm Dodds, Ralph Thompson, Maria Humphries and husband.

Apologies: Jo Southwell, Tamsin Egan

1. Arrival Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Farm.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The Chair circulated the minutes of the last AGM. It was noted that the Farm Board of Trustees had approved the minutes of the last AGM, and the Chair had signed them.

The minutes of the last AGM were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Presentation from Farm Director

BTW, Farm Director, reflected on 2023, which had been the second year of the delivery of the Farm's three year strategy. A great deal of progress had been made during the year, and BTW provided the following highlights, which demonstrated the work of the Farm, and its impact on the local community:

- A recent visitor had shown Farm staff a Bath City Farm badge, which predated the establishment of the Charity. He was blown away by the progress of the Farm over the last 30 years.
- 800 people had been supported through dedicated projects at the farm, including through various clubs, the Roots to Work and Roots to Health programmes, and the Alternative Provision programme.
- The Cafe had presented a steep learning curve for the Farm Staff, but by the end of 2023, it had begun to make a profit, and was now contributing to the Farm financially as well as being a great training facility for those on the Roots to Work, and other, programmes.
- In terms of impact, amongst children and young people who had attended projects at the Farm, c.85% reported that they had better wellbeing since being involved at the Farm, c.75% had stronger belief and confidence in themselves and c.80% said they were making better food choices. BTW provided the meeting with some quotes from some young members, which really demonstrated the positive impact that the farm had had on them.

- Moving to adults, c.96% had reported that they had improved mental health since being involved with the Farm, c.72% had better physical health, c.16% had been discharged from Mental Health Services and 28% had been able to reduce the level of support they received from Mental Health Services.

BTW played two videos to the meeting. The first provided an overview of the Services provided at the Farm, and the second provided an overview of the Twerton and Whiteway Network (the '**Network**'), which included interviews with residents of Twerton and Whiteway which highlighted the pride residents had for the area that they lived in. The Network was helping to build resilience across the community, and enabled the Farm to support the community beyond its core Farm services.

An attendee (Malcolm) acknowledged the work of the Farm to build the Network. As the Network evolved, and the Farm potentially became less involved in running it, there would be opportunities for the Farm to contribute in other ways, for example by growing and distributing food in the Community, or to programmes which support the community. He went on to express his delight at seeing the Network up and running, which was something the Farm had had a huge part to play in.

TS thanked BTW for his highlights, and recognised BTW's work to build and lead the excellent team of dedicated staff at the Farm. Progress in the year had been great. The energy and enthusiasm for the Farm, amongst staff, volunteers and visitors was excellent, and had paid dividends in the recent Crowdfunder, which had raised £40,000, and which showed the support that people had for the Farm.

4. Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts

MR presented the FY2023 Report and Accounts, which had been approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 August 2024, and had been subsequently filed with Companies House. He highlighted the key financials for the year, using the prior year as comparators, to demonstrate the Farm's strong progress in 2023.

Commenting on the Farm's funding, he noted that the National Lottery, Henry Smith Charitable Trust and Children In Need had been the Farm's biggest funders through 2023, and combined with other smaller donors, the Farm had been able to adequately fund its activities through the year. Looking forward MR noted that the team would continue to scan the horizon for new donors, grants and funding opportunities.

BTW thanked MR for his overview. He added, that the development currently taking place on site, was fully funded, and that project specific funding was ringfenced to support the specific projects.

An attendee (Deborah) suggested that the Farm explore how to encourage people to include a legacy donation to the farm in their Will, and it was explained that this was being looked at, and a donor database was being developed, with the aim to increase legacy donations.

5. Approval of the Appointment of New Trustees

The Chair noted that Mike Collins had resigned as a Trustee of Bath City Farm, with effect from 12 October 2024, having been a trustee at the Farm for a tenure of 9 years. He further

noted that Phillippa Rogers had also resigned as a Trustee, with effect from 31 December 2024. He thanked both Mike and Phillippa for their service as Trustees of the Farm, and acknowledged the significant contribution that each of them had made.

The Chair explained that following the aforementioned Trustee resignations, a review of the skills and experience of existing Trustees had been undertaken to identify the desired skills that it would be beneficial to add to the Board, and accordingly, it was proposed that the following people be appointed as Trustees of the Farm:

- Alex Perkins - Alex is a Vet who already worked closely with the Farm to care for the animals;
- Amanda Loran - Amanda is a finance professional who would be able to support the Farm with its Finances, in conjunction with the Finance Manager (once hired); and
- Cerys Blades - Cerys is a Company Secretary with governance experience in both the Financial Services and Not-for-profit sectors;
(the '**Proposed Appointments**').

The proposed appointments were approved, subject to the completion of references and background checks.

6. Closing Remarks

TS thanked everyone for joining the meeting, and for their collective efforts to support the farm through 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 11:30, and Members were invited on an optional tour of the Farm.