

## **Members' Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

10 people attended the meeting, with apologies from Board members Kate Whittle and Tim Lawrence.

### **Celebrating the Year!!!**

We started out by asking people what they enjoyed about the year. Really good veg, What to do with 20 onions, the tomatoes were amazing, Christmas chutney, getting VAT money back, the sunshine, putting up the polytunnel, selling cash crops of cucumbers and salads, and the Santander grant.

### **Budget 2014**

Bobbie Sunderland led the discussion on the budget to be adopted for 2014. Currently we are in the black due to receiving VAT money back and our cash crop sales. The Board is proposing that we adopt the budget for 2014 according to the financial paper sent out to all of the members before the meeting. We are operating under the following assumptions for this budget.

#### **Assumptions**

- We have the use of the glasshouse and growing space at Feed Bristol site at least until October 2014.
- We are going to have a second polytunnel in the new year paid for with the Santander grant money.
- We are keeping the price of the shares the same.
- We hope to grow from 50 shares to 70 shares through 2014.
- We are projecting £3,700 in salad sales for next year.
- We want to increase the grower days from 4.5 days now to 5.5 from January and then to increase to 6.5 after the first 3 months of the year. This will include a total of 325 grower days.
- Other staffing will include a coordinator equivalent to one day a week for other projects (see below).
- Admin staff of 15 hours per month to support the business. This remains to be developed.
- We are planning to increase the growers' wages by 2%.
- We have several site development proposals. Growers Centre, Fertility system, Community space, Drainage, Polytunnel.
- The Santander grant will pay for some coordinator time. We will recruit some interns to help us. The AVAG money which was donated to us will help pay for community space.

The budget balances as of now.

The question was raised what to do if we don't grow per the budget in members? The answer was that we can divert more energy into the cash crops. We will only spend capital based on the grant funding that we have.

Chris' Real Economy buying group project may want to source some veg from Sims Hill. The Community Farm is looking to contract smaller growers and so is Steve Glover.

**The budget has been adopted unanimously.**

#### **Santander and Permaculture update led by James Adamson**

We have £10,000 from Santander for developing our business. This will pay for a polytunnel, along with the equivalent of 1 day per week of a coordinator to lead a group of interns in – erecting the polytunnel, designing a fertility system, building a growers centre/community centre, which will be a green building. The polytunnel will be the first project. For the other projects we will need to find some additional funding for some materials. They are planned for the second and third quarters. We need to clarify this with Steve Clampin as well as South Gloucester Council for planning permission.

We have applied to be a Permaculture Land Centre. We meet some of the criteria but we need to meet more to become a fully qualified Land Centre. One of the most important requirements is to standardise our health and safety protocols and to make sure that our insurance coverage is adequate to cover employees and volunteers, etc. The other is to ensure that permaculture is visible in all of our documents, website communications etc. and to add signage about it to the site.

#### **AOB**

Our next meeting will be our AGM. Bobbie and Chris will stand down from the board, and Bobbie will stand for reelection. Chris will not stand for reelection due to other commitments. There is space for new Directors. If anyone is thinking of standing for the Board, we will need to know in writing at least 14 days before our next AGM, which will be on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.