

MINUTES OF PEDAL AGM HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2020, VIA ZOOM.

Attendees: Eva Schonveld (Host), Diana Cairns (Co-ordinator), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer), Neil Woodward (Secretary), Justin Kenrick, Gordon McCulloch, Alastair Cameron, Josephine Petersson, Ian Humphrey, Kyrsta Macdonald-Scott, Deborah Harris, Jenny Messer.

Apologies: None.

The Co-ordinator welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of 2019 AGM.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the 2019 AGM, proposed by Justin Kenrick and seconded by Gordon McCulloch.

Co-ordinator's report.

The co-ordinator reported on all activities undertaken by PEDAL since the last AGM.

Brighton Park Market became progressively quieter and was not helped by the lock-down from April to August. However after re-opening with precautions in September the number of traders has increased to more than 30 at the Christmas market.

Donkeyfield Orchard enjoyed its annual January Wassailing with Portobello Community Choir and the February work-day was productive. Since lock-down the usual maintenance, pruning, bulb and wild-flower planting, strimming, fruit picking, and woodland care have been done individually. It clearly offered solace, peace and out-door company for a host of children and adults, including Brunstane Primary School staff. The Prince's Trust kindly provided some volunteer young workers for weed clearance.

Portobello Apple Network benefited from a bumper harvest of local apples and pears, as well as plenty of volunteers, to make a record 900 bottles of fruit juice. Proceeds from its sale were donated to the Market and Fresh Start. Since supply and demand are out-stripping current facilities it is looking at ways of boosting production.

The Community Energy Project based at Bellfield was supported.

The Community Shop, supplying fresh fruit and vegetables, was about to formalise itself into a Community Benefit Society when Root Down opened successfully as a High St. greengrocer. In order to avoid duplication it was decided that the Community Shop should be wound up.

Treasurer's report.

In the financial year 2019/2020 we made a surplus of £173.16 which resulted in a final reserve of £ 8,193.27 in cash. Of this total sum, £ 7,714.39 is ring fenced for certain projects which means that £ 578.88 is actual free reserves.

The two major areas of income and expenditure are the market and the orchard. The market traded at an overall loss of £ 465.71. This deficit does underline the continuing trend of the market running as an unsustainable self-financing project. The ring fenced reserve at the end of the financial year was £1,016.04.

The orchard project ran at a surplus of £536.87 for the year largely due to juice sales along with sales of chutney and the hire fee for renting out the apple press. The amount in reserve for the orchard is £4,870.65 which is comforting in that there may be some tree work required from specialists in managing the woodland on the site that we lease.

A provision has been made for the Corporation Tax liability of £32.90 and there are no other known liabilities.

I recommend the accounts for your approval and once I receive final copies from the accountant I will send out a copy to the Board.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Diana Cairns and seconded by Gordon McCulloch.

Election of Board Members.

Justin Kenrick, Neil Woodward and Gordon McCulloch stood down from the board and were re-elected en-bloc, proposed by Eva Schonveld and seconded by Stephen Hawkins.

Presentation on Porty Parents Permaculture Project.

Jenny Messer gave an inspiring talk on the above. Along with 13 to 14 like-minded Portobello parents she has designed an accessible public garden at Bellfield with the aim of growing food for the community, the accent being on biodiversity and supporting wild-life. Some already have diplomas in Permaculture Design, and the ethic is 'earth care, people care and fair share' The objective is 'no dig' with soil presently being built into raised beds, which they are co-ordinating on with the Tool Library. There are similar projects throughout Portobello and Edinburgh. The future is promising.

In discussion afterwards Josephine Petersson, a member, expressed a wish to bring all Permaculture projects together as well as inspiring new ones. Jenny thanked PEDAL for its support with soil conditioning and bank accounts. Stephen Hawkins offered further future support and a joint meeting was proposed. He also recommended George Anderson as a useful expert adviser.

The AGM concluded with the Co-ordinator thanking all participants for attending.