

Minutes of the AGM of the Berwick Slow Food Convivium held on the 29th January 2020 at 7pm in The Parish Centre, Wallace Green, Berwick-upon-Tweed

APPROVED at the AGM 27/01/2021

Present:- Sophie Hamilton, Terry Gill, Chris Orchard, Kathy Orchard, Richard Clay, Laura McGinlay, Maggie Jary, Chris Jary, Pete, Jane Hall, Ruth McNeely, Maurice McNeely, Linda Pepper, Angus Hamilton, Denise Walton, Liz Wilcox, Jon Hird, Hilary Lowe, Marjorie Grahamslaw

1. Welcome:- Chair Chris Orchard welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Apologies:- Livvy Cawthorne, Graham Head, Martin Laidler, Gill Peart, Lisa Wilson, Lynne Ellerby, Daphne Robson, Bev Stephenson, Joyce Miller, Tansy Clift, Susan Hallsworth, Sophie Clay, Lesley Angel.
3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM – There were no matters arising from the minutes
4. Reports for 2020
 - a. Chairpersons Report:- Chris reviewed the year as per the attached report.

He gave a special thanks to all those who volunteered throughout the year. A special thanks to retiring festival directors Ruth and Maurice McNeely for all their all work during the past 4 years which has resulted in an increasingly successful festival. They were presented with a small gift to thank them.

Linda Pepper, who collates and evaluates the questionnaires given to visitors and stallholders at the end of the festival, said visitors tended to come because of the festival and were unaware of the Slow Food connection. A discussion ensued to see how the SF brand could be incorporated e.g. slogans and boards around the site. It was agreed that this should be done.
 - b. Financial Report:- Richard Clay stated that the accounts had been audited. He referred to the accounts presented with the Convivium Account standing at £1,186.83 and the Festival Account standing at £37,584.34

In answer to a question from the floor it was stated that it costs approximately £36,500 to run the festival.
 - c. Festival Report:- (see copy)

- d. Events Programme A number of events took place throughout the year. These included Wine tasting, gin tasting, curry night, Christmas dinner at Northern Soul, and tasting menu at Audela. These were all well attended and enjoyed.

5 Election of Committee & Officers:-

Chris Orchard remained as chair.

Terry and Kate Gill resigned from the committee, although they will be staying on as SF members. Chris thanked them for all their hard work

New members nominated for the committee;

Linda Pepper, Ken Hardy, John Hird, Kevan Wylie

Officer vacancies

Vice Chair – this will be considered at the first committee meeting
Secretary – Kathy Orchard

Ruth McNeely proposed the additions, Sophie Hamilton seconded

6. Forward Look for 2020

a. Food and Beer Festival

The new directors are Jane Hall and Laura McGinlay

A comprehensive plan is in place. The structure of this year's festival will remain much as before. The same number of stall holders. Applications have gone out. A lot of interest from street food vendors has already been expressed.

Changes include extra security and an on-site electrician. There is to be no electrics to the centre of the barracks, the coffee stall will be relocated to the side. There will be no electrics to the stage in the barracks. Looking into a standalone demo kitchen as visitors have expressed difficulty in seeing the demonstrations

Timings will be changed slightly to allow breaks and a slightly early, but structured finish.

Linda Pepper asked for more clarity for volunteers regarding their role on closing.

- b. Events Programme – No events have been organised so far. CO said that in future instead of a committee member organising events members could suggest events and organise them with a committee member having oversight.

7. AOB

Ruth McNeely said that the Community Trust is organising a Restaurant Week in April, on the back of how successful the Food and Beer festival is and given that there are some good restaurants and cafes in Berwick.

She urged everyone to consider joining Slow Food UK as we could lose our SF status if numbers fall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm