

Minutes of Land Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 210 Shirebrook Road.

Present: Kevin (minutes), Heather, Joan, Ronin (chair), Huw, Marion

Apologies: Stella

#### Matters arising

- 1) Kevin contacted Darrell to confirm tool list and tractor implements needed.
- 2) Joan to send share issue out to LG again.
- 3) Discussion of tractor wheel width and machinery. Machinery needs to be wide enough to go over the ground compacted by the wheels.
- 4) Marion reported that she felt the pros of planting beans were not accurately detailed and the cons over-stated. Some beans have now been planted in the beds and covered in fleece. Others are to be sown in plots.

#### Report from MC

- 5) MC asked LG to think about the box scheme. Heather had given some thought to this but the ideas were flexible. Ideas were to diversify the customer base. Regular boxes limit to those that can afford it so offer boxes on a one-off basis too. Perhaps need a small core group having a regular box to guarantee income and surplus sold at outlets.
- 6) Joan reported the launch of the share issue on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2012 and a fund-raising event on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012.

#### Recruitment

- 7) Job advert gone out and now on HCF website. Heather compiling list of places where it is advertised. Closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Interview on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. Shortlist to visit field on Friday am. Questions to be decided upon at shortlisting. Joan to be asked to ratify final decision of interview panel. Huw suggested a website called grower jobs. **Action** Heather to contact Gareth. Kev to put on Sheffield Forum. Think about short-term grower if post not filled. Consider adjusting job description.

#### Developments on the field

- 8) Water pipes in place. Both polytunnels frames are up. Just cover to go on. Waiting for quiet day. Soil needs building up to lower bar level of polytunnel. Beds in polytunnels can now be constructed. Track construction underway: topsoil has been scraped off and hardcore being put in to replace. All four quarters of the field look to be rented next year: Matt, James and Huw, Martin, the CSA.

#### Manure

- 9) Lightwood Farm has fresh horse manure with wood pellets/chips. Origins of straw not known. Horse manure is being checked for GM. Cow manure has possibility of GM. £35/big load – they'll deliver. Needs to be delivered when ground hard eg after frost. **Action:** Heather to agree 3 loads conditional on GM status of horse manure. Needs to be delivered when someone on site to direct first time. Huw volunteered to do this. Manure at top of field between compost heap and post. **Action:** Heather to buy one large tarpaulins. There is some camping equipment in the riparian woodland, it may be a tent blown in from the land. We need to check and remove it.

#### Potato sales

- 10) A potato audit has been done. Heather to pass the £22 profit from potato sales to Stella for petty cash for volunteer days. Half a sack of broad beans spare to be sold. **Action:** Heather to sell these from her house. 50p/100 g. Bag and advertise locally.

#### Volunteer report and future

- 11) Stella has created a log of volunteers. Stella keen on having a variety of jobs to suit different conditions/volunteers.

#### Medicinal herbs plot

- 12) Agreed to consider this in January. Kevin suggested waiting a year before considering perennial crops.

#### Next steps for the land

- 13) To ensure consistency we should think ahead.
- 14) Fertility: Huw has redone the soil tests. Still some deficiencies. Huw asked Green Estates to see whether the compost will address the deficiencies. **Action:** Huw to send us the results of the soil tests and analysis of green waste compost. Green manures provide some fertility – they need to be incorporated into the rotation.
- 15) Marion thinks that using leaf litter from woodland is not allowed within organic cultivation. It is also detrimental to the ecology of the woodland.
- 16) Need to make seed compost. **Action:** Kevin to send Marion Richard Clare's compost recipes.
- 17) Should buy more compost but one trailer of compost=11 trailers of manure in price.
- 18) Ploughing plan: plough to go behind the tractor (6" max depth)
- 19) Agreed to meet in January to go through details of Joan's doc, including rotation, green manures, what crops to grow etc.

#### Box scheme

##### License

- 20) Huw presented the proposed license to occupy. **Action:** Joan to scan and email to LG.

##### Service Level Agreement

- 21) Needs agreeing and signing off. **Action:** Joan to contact John Le Corney.

##### Date of next meeting:

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012 – grower discussion. 147 Albert Road @ 7:30pm.

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012 (land group now regularly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of month) 210 Shirebrook Road @ 7:30pm.