

Minutes of Incredible Edible Skipton Annual General Meeting 2022 Held at 7.00pm on 7 November 2022 at The Royal Shepherd, Skipton

Present:

Olivia McEwan (Chair), Ann Parkinson (Secretary), Paula Solloway (Treasurer), Angela Monaghan, Richard Annable, Andy Solloway, Bill Carmichael, Angela Pattinson, Tim Rodger

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were approved.

1. Chair's Report

Olivia McEwan presented the Annual Report for October 2021 to October 2022. She started by introducing Incredible Edible Skipton, which is a volunteer-run community group, growing food for anyone to pick for free and creating growing spaces around Skipton. By learning and sharing how to grow, harvest and utilise fresh seasonal food, we strive to bring people and communities together. All whilst making Skipton more beautiful, supporting nature and tackling climate and biodiversity emergencies.

She identified some of the highlights of the past year, which included:

- more frequent and regular volunteer sessions throughout the year.
- new volunteers joining the group.
- new raised beds installed at Christ Church and The Ginnel.
- successful seed sowing in the polytunnel, to provide plants for the raised beds and Incredible Edible allotment.
- a visit to the original Incredible Edible in Todmorden, which provided ideas and inspiration.
- a talk on composting by Yorkshire Rotters, leading to extensions and improvements to the composting system at the Incredible Edible allotment.
- production of a display, which has been used at events and locations around Skipton to promote and raise awareness of the work of Incredible Edible Skipton.
- a successful fundraising stall as part of Skipton Sheep Day in July.
- a successful Open Day at the allotment in October, which included a trial of our new apple press and a tour of the fruit orchard on Middletown recreation ground.

Olivia went on to summarise some of the group's plans for the future, which include:

- increasing the number of growing sites around Skipton.
- improving the Duke Street growing area.
- an annual calendar of events, to include a spring seed-sowing day, summer Open Day, autumn Apple Day, winter wreath-making and talks on compost-making.
- developing a 'Green Route' around Skipton.
- collaborating with other groups in Skipton.

Olivia recognised and thanked The Roger Stott Foundation for supporting our work in the orchard with a grant of £1,250 for tools, an apple press, signage and training on pruning.

Olivia concluded by sending a huge thank you to all our volunteers, committee members, partners and funders for all their hard work and support. Angela expressed her thanks to Olivia for her work and leadership as Chair throughout the year.

The annual report was received.

2. Presentation of Accounts:

Richard Annable presented the accounts, which had been prepared by Paula Solloway and Richard.

In the full year period 1.3.21-28.2.22, income was £780 and expenditure was £2,470. In the part-year period 1.3.22 to 2.11.22, income was £1,347 and expenditure was £1,077.

The largest source of income was The Roger Stott Foundation (£1,250). The main items of expenditure were tools and equipment, plants, seeds and soil, insurance, and costs associated with community events.

As of 2 November 2022, the group was holding funds of £1,554. Some of this is restricted funding associated with the Roger Stott grant. It was agreed to identify this in this year's accounts.

The accounts were received.

Olivia thanked Paula for her work as Treasurer throughout the year and Richard for his support with producing the accounts.

3. Election of Officers

Ann Parkinson announced she was stepping down as Secretary, but wished to remain on the committee. Olivia thanked her for her hard work since the formation of the group.

The following were elected:

Chair: Olivia McEwan (proposed by Angela Monaghan, seconded by Ann Parkinson)

Secretary: Angela Monaghan (proposed by Ann Parkinson, seconded by Paula Solloway)

Treasurer: Paula Solloway (proposed by Angela Monaghan, seconded by Olivia McEwan)

Committee Members: Richard Annable, Ann Parkinson, Angela Pattinson (proposed by Angela Monaghan seconded by Olivia McEwan).

4. Feedback and Discussion on Future Plans

Members present were asked for their feedback and views on future plans, and in particular, what we should be growing.

Bill Carmichael (Christ Church) reported that the raised beds in their grounds had been really successful and they were very pleased with the partnership. There had been no vandalism, they had involved children, and they'd found signs had been helpful for encouraging picking. Watering had been a problem and they would like more advice on how close to plant.

Most popular were broccoli, courgettes, peas, cavolo nero, kale, lettuce and sunflowers. Strawberries didn't work and they were unsure what to do with the borage, although the flowers were great for bees. Others suggested herbs and rocket are good to grow.

There were suggestions for providing seating and wildflowers at Duke Street, plus better signage.

It was noted with concern that there is often cat poo present in the beds at The Ginnel. It was suggested orange peel be deployed to deter them.

Other ideas and suggestions for future activities included:

- Offering advice and education on growing and cooking food.
- Savings seeds, and possibly setting up a seed exchange.
- More companion planting.
- Growing foods that are expensive in shops to help alleviate the cost-of-living crisis, such as lettuce, garlic, tomatoes, raspberries. It was noted that the preference is to grow plants that are above ground so people don't have to dig when picking.
- Setting up a public stall/stand where we, and others, can leave picked produce for people to take for free. This could complement the food bank, which doesn't normally provide fresh food. A central location would be good for this.
- Providing compost now to mulch all the growing beds.
- Exploring working with Greatwood community centre.
- Improving communications, signage and publicity.
- Supporting better mental health.

A number of fundraising suggestions were also discussed, including producing willow crafts

It was noted that similar groups were forming in other places nearby, including Bradley and Carleton.

Olivia thanked everyone for their thoughts and input and for coming to the AGM.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.