



Braidwood Garlic Growers Co-op Ltd

Venue: Braidwood Services Club or via zoom

Extraordinary General Meeting

Date: 24 July 2022

Time: 2.30pm

Draft Minutes

12 members attended, 2 by zoom, the zoom was interrupted a couple of times and late to start

Those present elected the Chair: Dave Ellis unanimously in the absence of Phil Shoemark

1. Active membership rule 5(2)

Megan explained that the changes to this rule require the approval of the Office of Fair Trading, under the rules governing co-ops

Georgina explained the reasons for needing to change Active Membership – the administration of the current system is too cumbersome for volunteers

Cliff expressed concern at the lack of certainty in the proposed rules – no specific thing that members can do to remain 'Active' if they can't meet the garlic minimum supply, under the current rules members could pay \$125

The meeting agreed that this was problematic, but did not find a valid alternative to the proposed rules

Motion: Moved Dave 2nd Cliff

That we pass the proposed amendment on the understanding that it be reviewed before 1 July 2023 --- accepted unanimously by those present, Zoom was off

2. Rule 7(2)

Dave explained that the change was aimed at removing the annual fee from the Rules, so that we don't have to change the Rules every time we want to amend the annual fee. The Annual Fee will be part of procedures of the AGM

The proposed fees for 2021-22 and 2022-23 be set at \$200 up to 30 June 2023. We will later propose that the co-op financial year will move from 1 Nov to 31 Oct to be in line with common financial practice in Australia: 1 July to 30 June

Motion: Moved Dave 2nd Megan

That we accept the amendment – accepted unanimously by those present, Zoom was on but we had lost participants

3. Removal of references to 'Braidgarlic'

Wendy explained that whilst Braidgarlic is a nice concept, it does not assist with marketing because it does not sufficiently locate our co-op in Braidwood

Motion: Moved Dave 2nd Angela

That we modify the Rules to refer to us as Braidwood Garlic – accepted unanimously
Zoom was on but we had lost participants

4. Amendment to membership financial year

Dave has already explained why we proposed to change the financial year

Motion: Moved Dave 2nd Angela

That we change the co-op's financial year to be in line with the tax year: 1 July to 30 June – accepted unanimously Zoom was on but we had lost participants

Other Business:

1. Communications: Cliff mentioned that he had not received many of the communications from our co-op. Wendy expressed the hope that the current email system, which had successfully contacted all members for this meeting would prove to be more stable than Mobilise had been
2. Georgina explained the problems of marketing:
 - a. We have clients who want green garlic – as in not cured. This garlic is heavier than cured garlic, and sells for cheaper, but in the long run can be more lucrative to growers because of the amount of loss of weight and issues in curing and the early income
 - b. Georgina emphasised the benefits of being a co-op, where collectively we can secure clients that we could not satisfy individually – some of these are still out of our reach, but clients want continuity of supply
 - c. Georgina spoke to the reputation of the co-op for producing quality, clean garlic, both in bulbs and in separated cloves – we have worked hard for our reputation and we have to continue to adhere to those standards
A concern was expressed that members need to provide quality garlic to the co-op and not expect us to sell just the dregs of your crops – that said: never throw anything away, we are looking at markets for granulated/powdered garlic
 - d. Georgina spoke to the need for more members to take an active role in the co-op, reminding members that the Board are all volunteers and particularly Marketing needs to be more of a joint effort

Marketing involves:

1. Finding clients and identifying how much garlic they want and to what standards – how the garlic should be presented to meet their needs
There is an element of education here: members need to be aware of the standards required and be able to produce garlic to those standard
2. Identifying which members can supply for that client and when
3. collecting the garlic and storing it pending completion of the order
4. delivering the order to the client

These tasks would be best performed by a committee or group of members, not just one person

Emily volunteered to be on the Marketing Committee with Georgina and Liz, more members are needed even if only on an ad hoc basis: contact Georgina if you can help

- e. Georgina spoke to the need for members to learn to braid because there is a market for braids, particularly just before Xmas. We have had success in this area in the past and there are outlets for our braids in Braidwood and at markets.
Turban is good for braiding, but the hard necks are not

Meeting Close: 16:24