Meeting of the Food Group
The Geldart
24 February 2010
Minutes

1. Present: Nicola (Chair), Rowan, Ivan, Pippa, Jerry (Secretary), Ceri, Dave Jackson, Lindsey O'Donnell, Lindsey Berends, Anne, Amy, Man-Kwun Chan, Andrew (Newmarket).

Apologies: Martin, Jackie, Liz, Jason.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to the following correction which Nicola will please make.

Environment Festival: Storytelling at Milton Country Park - the cycle ride is not a Food Group event.

3. Matters Arising

Ceri suggested having the Food Forum in October or November as September is too busy a month for most farmers and allotment holders.

4. Environment Week

It was decided that it was too late to organise a showing of the “Pig-Business” film for environment week, since events had to be in by the end of February. It was decided that we would go ahead with stalls at the Town and Country Fair on Parker’s Piece on the 12th and 13th June and also have a stall at the family event at Lamas Land (by the river at Newnham) also on the 13th June.

Suggestions for the Lammas Land event included worms, bees, centipedes and soil testing. Rowan agreed to contact the Soil Association to see if they had any suitable resources.

There will also be a plant swap event on the 20th June. Please start thinking now about growing some plants for this event.

5. Leaflet Update

Please could everybody read our leaflet and suggest any changes needed at the next meeting.
6. **Grow Zones**

Grow Zones is to be launched in Cambridge on Wednesday 3rd March, 7.30pm, at the United Reformed Church on Cherry Hinton Road. All welcome. Pippa gave out some flyers. The subject of drawing up a list of poster sites was discussed. Lindsey Berends agreed to do a rough draft of poster sites for the next meeting which people could then add to.

7. **Shelford CSA**

Ivan reported that the Shelford CSA group had held its first meeting: the next is on 3rd March. He has also been in contact with business advisors to help plan the CSA. A rough figure of 150 families was proposed for the target uptake.

Cottenham farmer Ken Kelso has suggested he might be able to offer land for a CSA.

The pros and cons of the CSA doing its own “box” scheme were also discussed.

8. **“Pig Business” Film**

Nicola has contacted one possible pig-farmer for the film showing. Ceri suggested contacting Heath Farm about the pig farmer who supplies their Gloucester Old Spot. A film showing in July was thought possible.

9. **Farming Links in General**

It was agreed that we should develop greater links with local farmers. Anne, Amy, Nicola and Ivan agreed to set up an online list of farming links, so that we know who’s out there and what they provide. The project is to be called “Cambridge Farm Links”. Various local “box” schemes such as “Cambridge Organic Food Company” and “Waterland” were discussed. Ceri noted that we need to consider what was the best value for those on low incomes.

10. **Food Forum**

This will be progressed when Jacky is back.

11. **Growing Food in Schools**

Pippa told us about the “Children’s Kitchen Garden” Program, aimed at primary school children. She suggested we could replicate it in collaboration with the Education Group. It was suggested we gather information about what local schools are already doing. Lyndsey O’Donnell agreed to investigate Fawcett School.
12. **Grow Your Own Update**

   The Grow Your Own practical sessions have started, with three participants battling through the rain to do their digging.

13. **Hub Meeting**

   The first Hub meeting took place. An Education Group is starting.

14. **Radio 209 Demise**

   Nicola agreed to write a short “thank-you” to the Radio 209 team. Pippa to check.

15. **Permaculture Group**

   A new Permaculture Group is starting. The first meeting will be on Friday 12th March, 7.30pm, at Ceri’s.

16. **AOB**

   Dave and Ceri have submitted a grant application to the City Council (“Cambridge Sustainable City”)

   Transition Ceilidh: Various dates and ticket prices were discussed.

   Cambridge Green Infrastructure Strategy: Dave and Ceri are to send a draft response for Nicola to put on the forum page. Comments are invited from the rest of the group.

   **Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th March, The Geldart, 7.30pm.**