



AGRI Steering Group – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm Quality Hotel, Birmingham  
Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BA

**Chairman: Russell Carrington (Herefordshire)**

**Vice-chairman: Lynsey Martin (Kent)**

**Present:** Russell Carrington (Chairman [WM]); Ed Ford (E); Lynsey Martin (Vice-Chairman [SE]); James Hutchinson (SW); Chris Berry (SW)

**Part Meeting:** James Eckley (NFYFC CO); John Hardman (NFYFC Treasurer); Hannah Talbot (NFYFC Vice-Chairman); Claire Worden (NFYFC Chairman); Chris Manley (Co-Option [SW])

**In attendance:** Julia Pointon (NFYFC Vice Chairman BoM); Joanne Wyles (Agricultural and Rural Affairs Officer); Sam Dilcock (N); Scott Rix (E); Roy Boreham (Life Vice President)

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Becky Hammett (TRIG [SW]); Keith Forster (N); Duncan Howie (Co-option CEJA [E]); Charlotte Johnston (Co-Option CEJA [WM]); Hannah Durdy (N); Paul Hartley (E); Vinnie Copper (SE); Harriet Wilson (WM)

#### 3. To confirm Minutes of previous meeting

RC signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

#### 4. Additional items for agenda

Manifesto Points  
Reorder of agenda and John Hardman to talk about HOPS apprenticeships  
Massey Ferguson competition

#### 5. Manifesto Themes

RC explained what of his aims we had achieved since February including

- 1<sup>st</sup> AGRI Newsletter – this had received good feedback and JW explained that she will be working on the format to see if we can record how many people have viewed it. Suggestions include to make it more widely available and also to upload to Facebook and send to industry partners such as the NFU and Defra.
- JW gave an update on the Facebook group as this would be live next week but only available to current SG members who would have to sign a code of conduct before being allowed to join.

Action:

All SG members to sign code of conduct and return to JW

JW to create Facebook group

#### 6. Hops Apprenticeships

John Hardman explained to the room what HOPS did as their core business and how this has changed in the last 12 months and what their relationship is with NFYFC. JH then introduced the HOPS Apprenticeship scheme and explained how this would work and how it would differ from existing schemes such as EDGE.

JH asked for NFYFC members support from the new apprenticeship scheme and skilled recruitment which the Steering Group agreed they would help to promote to the members once the website was live.

#### 7. CEJA

JW handed out the CEJA budget, Presidium minutes and report on CEJA publicity.

CM gave an update on CEJA activity since the last meeting explaining that CEJA had heavily influenced the CAP.

There are new working groups CEJA will hold to focus their future work these are: Innovation, food chain, international free trade agreements and access to land and credit.

JW explained that due to the timely and well written report that Charlotte Johnston wrote following the presidium, the subsequent press release got an estimated coverage worth £29,000.

The next CEJA dates are 4<sup>th</sup> September which Chris Berry said he was interested in attending, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October which Ed Ford and Duncan Howie put names down for and 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Oct which Sam Dilcock said he would like to attend. It was agreed that where possible a buddy system should operate so that someone who hasn't been

to a CEJA event before will attend with someone that has.

The sponsorship of CEJA was discussed, and it was made clear that HOPS would not be continuing to sponsor due to the changes explained by JH, the group said they would like to have more contact with their sponsors including meetings with them.

The CEJA working group would also like their own Facebook group.

Action:

JW to book attendees on working groups

JW to set up CEJA Facebook group

CEJA working group to sign code of conduct

#### 8. Matching Service

JW discussed the findings of Steve Webster's reports with the group and that she had presented these to the Board to ask for a decision on how to take the project forward.

The board had agreed that a press release should be submitted with details of the findings and emphasising the need for funding. However large amounts of staff time should not be diverted to finding funding as it was more necessary to plug the funding gap for NFYFC.

Action

JW to prepare press release with Cheryl

#### 9. Election of NFU Representative

James Hutchinson attended the last NFU Council meeting at short notice and was thanked for stepping in at the last minute as Paul Hartley was unable to attend. The importance of attending these meetings was discussed and it was agreed that a representative and a deputy should be elected.

Russell Carrington proposed James Hutchinson as the representative and Paul Hartley as the deputy. Lynsey Martin seconded.

#### 10. Area Representatives Reports

RC discussed the new area reporting forms and reps agreed these were a good way forward. RC said he had tried to call all the links people in his area and had identified Counties which did not have a links person.

SW – CB – Said that feedback from the name change was very good and they were looking to follow suit. James Hutchinson reported that it was difficult for him to get Wiltshire to engage.

SE – Lynsey reported that she struggled to get them to fill in the form at the meeting. Fracking is a topical issue in Kent. Suggested to engage with her members more we need to focus on Rural Issues. Good feedback from the name change.

E – Again more focus needed on rural issues, newsletter went down well, perhaps a roadshow would be useful.

WM – Good feedback from the name change, Herefordshire CC are going to consult about their smallholdings estate.

#### 11. Agri Forum

JW handed out the feedback from the forms collected on the day and also from the online convention survey. All present gave their personal feedback and also feedback from their areas.

The main reasons for not attending were – Not for them, not aware, on holiday and don't want to talk work.

The need for a more famous key note speaker to draw in the crowds was discussed, Adam Henson was suggested.

Suggestions to make the event more prestigious and increase attendees are to ask form pre registration online and hand out badges and welcome packs.

Have the event in the afternoon.

Make it less formal so people can drop in and out.

Have an evening dinner on the Friday night as an additional event with the key note speaker.

The group decided to investigate the evening dinner further.

Action:

JW to get quote for evening dinner and look at sponsorship

#### 12. Manifesto next steps

RC explained what the officer team would be doing and the importance of using #yfcagri to promote what members are doing.

The next aim is to build better links with Area and County reps.

Also to continue to support the flooded Somerset farmers however they need.

Action:

Area reps to make contact with County Links people

JW to set up Facebook group

All to use #yfcagri when posting relevant photos or status's online

#### 13. Industry Representative Reports

13.1 NFU – Are pushing hard on issues with the Secretary of State. He visited the NFU South West stand at the Three Counties Show. Their main focuses are CAP – Greening & Mapping –

TB – Asking for an annual test for the whole country.

Beef price down 20% and imports

TB advisory service is now being extended for each region.

13.2 CLA – Duncan missed the last CLA meeting and passed on the minutes. They are launching their share farming advice at the Great Yorkshire Show.

13.3 TRIG - There is going to be a consultation on changes to the model clauses for Agricultural Holdings Act tenancies.

13.4 LEAF – Lynsey was unable to make the last meeting. However the main focus of LEAF in the past few months has been Open Farm Sunday and yet again they have had record visitors.

#### 14. Training and Events Update

JW handed out the feedback forms from the Speak out Training and the Netherlands Study Tour.

JW explained that due to the objectives of the Defra funding we were not able to run the training provided by LEAF as part of the grant. However we were able to run some social media for your business training with Social B who had presented at the European Seminar last year.

JW also reported that there was £4,000 to spend on subsidised study tours, this would run two study tours, one for u18s and one for over 18s, these would be to Scotland and France in October and February. It was agreed to try and keep the cost at £150.

JW reported that we were still waiting for the final confirmation letter from Defra.

A discussion was held about other events and it was suggested that another day trip to a business could be organised, such as that to Jordan's cereals in the run up to the Agri Forum.

#### 15. Get Mentoring in Farming

JW handed out information on Get Mentoring in Farming, explained what it was about and encourage members to spread the word and sign up for a mentor.

Action:

All to promote to members

#### 16. Entrepreneurs in Dairying

JW handed out information on the RABDF entrepreneurs in dairying training scheme which is due to start in September.

Action:

All to promote to members

#### 17. Show Season Activities

JW detailed the events the NFYFC would be attending throughout the summer coming up and handed out leaflets:

Livestock Event

Great Yorkshire Show

CLA Game Fair

Tenbury Show

St Georges House Consultation

LM invited everyone to Kent County Show

RC asked if the group would like to get involved in a debate at the Oxford Real Farming Conference and suggest a topic for the fringe suggestions included GM farming.

Action:

RC to look at setting up young farmers fringe discussion at ORFC

#### 18. Fracking Position Statement

JW explained that Friends of the Earth had been in touch with Milly Wastie asking NFYFC to support their anti fracking campaign.

JW read out the statement that LM had left about fracking problems in Kent and the concerns.

SD raised the problems that had been caused in Yorkshire from mining subsidence and questioned whether the same would happen with fracking.

A lively debate was held about the pro and cons of fracking, discussing the need for energy.

A statement was produce for Council to approve:

**"We recognise that Fracking has several areas of concern for agricultural and rural communities – not least water contamination. We believe more research is needed to investigate safer technology and would prefer to see more development of renewable energy systems. We must ensure that our future energy needs are met without causing irreversible damage to the environment, which we rely upon for our livelihoods."**

#### 19. Health and Safety

JW discuss the recent death of a young person in Devon, CB said whilst he was not a YFC member it had greatly affected the local community and urged everyone to take more care during harvest.

SD said that he had recently heard about an NVQ 12 in Health and Safety on the farm being provided by NFU and Lantra.

EF said in Essex the HSE were running On Farm Days and if farmers were seen not to be attending these training sessions they were more likely to get inspected.

#### 20. Any Other Business

JW told the group about the competition Massey Ferguson are running to send one of their members to the Vision of the Future event at their HQ in Beauvais France in August.

JE, CW and HT came into the meeting to discuss the changes to the Agri Forum.

#### 21. Date of next meeting and close

RC thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting is **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

SIGNED.....

DATED.....