

## **Circular Revolution**

**AGM minutes 16/02/2025**

### **Present:**

Isobel  
Chair: Jan  
SJ  
Gaetano  
Lou  
Sunniva  
Laerke  
Till  
Howie  
Viv  
Eve

Summary of AGM:  
Overview of finances  
New governance structure based on sociocracy approved  
Secondary Rules approved  
Eve stepped down as Director, Jan and SJ voted in  
Overview of proposed and in action projects or 2025

Start: 15:15

Introductions

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### **Isobel update:**

Thanks to Gaetano regarding IT software and development

## **Overview/update. For more info see last 18 months in review doc:**

Pickups three days a week, 9 volunteers, Tia helping with social media

Thanks to all who have helped during this funding transition phase through CRT pulling funding and the transition into a legal co-op. Funding ended up being obtained from NL, and has given us space to transform into the place that we are now.

Thanks to Organic Lea with their help on governance structure

TLDR about the drop off points. Goals for this year include the drop off points up the Lea which will hopefully enable us to offer cheaper collections

Have built a good relationship with Lea valley. Green light from Stabbots to install a collections point. Partial collection point at Springfield, open to marina residents only.

**Action Isobel to loop in Lou to a meeting with Springfield** as they are currently at Stabbots.

‘Our own site’ project → still a major goal for the co-op.

2 Wick Lane site currently being squatted. Ended up being included in proposal by Sibohan (Canal Garden Hub), where we would sublet space from her. Project status currently unknown due to squatters and bureaucracy

Other potential projects: managing a facilities point, to be discussed at the end/AOB.

## **Lou new Governance Struture Proposal:**

We currently have no formal model of governance: part of the point of this meeting is to establish how we will make decisions and what governance will look like withing the co-op.

Methods of working together as a group:

Models of democratic accountability- **see back of agenda for more details.** Explanation given by Lou

**Proposal- present- round of clarifying questions- round of quick reactions (mandatory)**

Question: does this method apply to everything including committee, directors, etc

A: definitely something to try out and develop as much as possible.

**Q:** what happens if someone can't vote due to technical issues/absences

A: ideally put forward a proxy, or give vote in advance after viewing the agenda that is sent out in advance

This process is ideally used to create a culture of democracy.

If lots of people in the room are ambivalent, it would still need to be worked on.

**Q:** how many people are necessary for a valid meeting

A: ideally at least one rep from each circle present, or feed into the agenda in advance

**Proposal: Lou proposes we use the sociocratic system of decision making- positive initial reactions**

**Outcome: Consent**

(second round of introductions to include late comers)

## Howie finance overview:

National Lottery grant may 23'

Forecast based on caddy margins, have about 18k in the bank, currently burn about 2k per year, cash currently set to last several years if no change.

Don't want to become stagnant, use cash to invest in initiatives to grow CR as discussed above and later.

TLDR: good and stable situation at present, should look to reinvest and expand. Use this meeting to discuss potential uses of cash/how to invest.

Hope is that now a lot of help is formalised in board members etc, hopefully less work for everyone going forward and job roles will be more defined.

Question: do we have to provide proof for expenditure of NL funding?

A: No, we can also potentially approach NL funding again.

**Q:** are forecasts now set for the next period?

A: should be quite easy to adjust forecasts depending on how we use money. Current forecast doesn't consider inflation, extra funding, extra costs, inflation, projects etc.

**Financial Report will be sent out after meeting.**

Active customer numbers seem to bottom out at 100, with 30-50 customers paused. Anecdotally due to people going out of range. How to decrease this number- eg drop off points, rejoining incentives etc.

10 more active customers per month might see us break even.

## Proposal: Vote of secondary rules

Isobel explains the purpose of **Articles of Association**, and purpose of **Secondary Rules**.

(TLDR: Directors are voted in, board members appointed by Directors)

**Clarifying questions/suggestions**

Suggestion: Add a review date to secondary rules (following AGM)

Reason for changing from 50% to 20% Corum for AGM/decision making: means that the requirement for being a member to be the minimum, enables decision making to happen with a potentially larger member base with less % required to be in attendance

Q: what gravity of decision making will use sociocracy?

A: Voting in key things eg Directors, board meetings, at AGM. Corum required at AGM only. Not day to day running of things

Other important change in secondary rules is number of General Meetings. Change from 4x per year to one AGM or as necessary. General rule of thumb will be 1x AGM, and 3x Community meetings, with one meeting per quarter.

**Amendment: Isobel to amend wording of secondary rules to include that SR will be reviewed at every AGM**

**Amendment: Isobel and Lou to do some work around membership form**

**Action: Double check how often the AGM needs to be help**

**Proposal: to vote through Secondary Rules with above amendments/actions.**

*Clarifying questions: None*

Reactions: positive

**Action: PASSED**

### **Change of Directors**

Eve stepping down. Isobel to remain Director

*Clarifying Q from Eve: Changing over passwords and stuff. SJ to discuss with Eve after meeting*

**Proposal:** Jan nominated for Director by Isobel

**Action: Passed**

**Proposal:** SJ nominate for director by Eve

**Action: Passed**

### **16:38 end pt 1**

Sunniva, Laerke, Till, Eve all had to leave at this point.

## **BREAK**

### **Recommencement at 17:00**

## **What to do with extra cash?**

Suggestions:

Hire someone for an extra half day

Landlord change: potential rent going up

Take over CRT service point (Old Ford Locks)

Sliding scale of caddy pick ups

### **Service point:**

Q: What licences would we need to operate the point

A: Would need to research this. Currently have the correct waste carrying licences

Q: What would the consequences be if boaters decide to just drop off caddies at drop off points in an uncontrolled manner

A: something to consider. Would potentially tarnish relationship with CRT.

Current working solutions would be a code system, or staffing if we took over a facilities point.

Would need to do a proof of concept

Potential Actions: need to research points such as how often Elsan gets blocked, talk to previous operator of lock café,

Pros: has compound benefit of benefiting the community, strengthening relationship with CRT, potentially fulfil goal of onsite-processing

**Action: board meeting to discuss Service Point Project. Agree question points to research to discuss at board meeting.**

**Action: SJ and Jan Look up land registry of CRT ownership**

**Action: Lou to speak to contact at LooWatt and Rokia at UCL engineering re bio-digester. Contact boater they know who ran café at that site.**

**Action: Isobel to contact Matthew Symmonds regarding usage/costings of facilities point.**

**Action: Howie to research cost of bio-digesters and composters**

### **Sliding scale of subscription**

Is this a priority?

Some concern around how this would affect profitability

Decision: Not to implement until drop off points established

**Action:**

**Organise Board Meeting. Weekday evening**

**Agenda point for Board Meeting to establish working group circles/whatsapp groups**

**FIN 18:00**