

Dublin Food Co-op SGM, 2 April 2009

- 1) The meeting opened at 8.20pm. Chair, Jan Van De Ven, welcomed delegates and introduced facilitator Dave Dunn.
- 2) Facilitator set out the rules and outlined the running order of the meeting agenda.
- 3) Motion to allow email notification for future meetings (proposed by Aodhagan O'Brion) passed. Required notice period extended from 8 to 14 days.

Dublin Food Co-op AGM, 2 April 2009

- 1) The meeting commenced at 8.35pm, directly after SGM conclusion.
- 2) Standing orders were adopted
- 3) Minutes of 2008 **SGM** were passed. However, it was **agreed** that in future, minutes

to be mailed along with notice of meeting

- 4) Minutes of 2008 **AGM** were accepted. However, criticism of the style of the minutes was noted. Some members felt that not enough detail was being recorded, while others argued that minutes should be brief with only decisions recorded. It was **agreed** that in future minutes would contain more detail of discussions.

A request (from the floor) that the minutes be read out was accepted.

- 5) **Auditor's Report:**

Martin Nolan outlined the Co-op's current financial situation;

- turnover up, overheads and expenditure down on 2007
- surplus of €49,000 compared to loss €47,000 in 2007
- net deficient of €3,000 compared with €78,000 in 2007

Martin noted that while this was a huge turnaround, healthy reserves were needed (through increased turnover) for the next phase of the move and advised that an eye be kept on costs.

Monica Haughey noted from the floor that Martin had agreed a fee reduction of 40%. He was officially thanked for this gesture.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Joe Dunne and seconded by Anthony Harris.

- 6) (i) Appointment of Auditor
Proposed by Stephen Coyne and seconded by Pauric Cannon.
- (ii) Agree Auditor's Remuneration
Proposed by Anthony Harris and seconded by Siraz Zaidi

- 7) **Chair's Report**

Jan outlined the history of the Co-op. He noted the following developments / accomplishments and outlined the results of the members email survey;

- accounts now done in house
- expanded range of gluten free and other dietary products
- CB working together to ensure health of the Co-op
- Sales steady

Dublin Food Co-op AGM, 2 April 2009

- Events/Venue coordinator Dave Dunne hired on a rolling basis. Success of the flea market noted - possible expansion of the market into Newmarket square to be explored with Dublin City Council.

Members email survey

- 90% ok with location of market
- 62% do more than half their total shopping in the Co-op
- One third visit every week
- 35% would come for lunch
- 2 out of 3 would come after 8pm if wine/beer were served with food

Co-op shop; currently under development with a plan to open at lunchtime. Dry goods to be transferred from main hall thus allowing more space for events. More remodelling required – license and legal requirements to fulfil.

Volunteers were thanked for their efforts, and the help rota team, co-ordinated by Anthony Dillon were commended for doing a great job.

Road finger signs - ongoing

Newsletter – articles/fun items required

Health and Safety - building now pest proofed

8) Questions for Chair

Q1. Rent review – is rent negotiable?

A. Landlord has not been approached as the original deal considered fair. Situation to be kept under review.

Q2. Is rent being paid on the shop since its possession in January 2009?

A. No. Landlord to bring shop space up to accepted code/standard. Rent will be €500/month.

Q3. Is the Co-op committed to go with the shop?

A. Yes. Some difficulty experienced in getting volunteers. Costs and budget, specific plan not finalised, still working out implications of opening to the public. The initial plan is business as usual, open with dry goods and eventually provide lunch/dinner.

Q4. Will membership be consulted re: shop?

A. Proposal to hold an open forum on shop – Chair available 3.30 Saturdays.

Q5. Provision of bicycle parking?

A. Situation ongoing.

Q6. Labelling of fruit and vegetables – are stall holders obliged to provide labelling information?

Dublin Food Co-op AGM, 2 April 2009

- A. Joe Dunne said a decision was taken to label all products, action on this delegated to the products group.
- 9) Resignation of CB members: Fionnuala Ward, Roeland Van Elsen, Ann Byrne as 2 year term expired
- 10) Co-option of Arthur Dignam for one year
Discussion over whether this is in accordance with rules. Issued parked - revisit later.
- 11) Election of new CB members. Nine candidates stood for six vacancies with the following members elected;
- John De Courcy
 - Mark Malin
 - Owenroe Lemass
 - Mary McDermott
 - Baptiste Gosselin
 - Alison Vendsill

Due to the late hour (12am) it was proposed to reconvene the meeting at 8pm Thursday 16 April 2009. Members were asked to read the 10 motions before the meeting to avoid another late finish.

Microphone requested for next meeting.

Dublin Food Co-op AGM continuation, 16 April 2009

1. The meeting opened with welcome from the chair.
2. Membership - membership cards now in place. Aodhagan O'Brion informed the meeting that 50% of members have joined since 2006 with 376 new members in 2008. He noted that the survival rate of 37.5% was low and should be tackled.
3. A proposal by Dave Dunne (seconded by Alison Vessell) allowing payment to Baptiste for provision of cafe furniture was passed.
4. An objection was raised to an email sent by the Chairperson to members outlining his views on some of the forthcoming motions. Chair replied that the email contained links to the list of motions and that his intention was to provoke debate and encourage members to turn up at the AGM and vote, whether they agreed with his views or not. It was argued that this was inappropriate action by the Chairperson and an abuse of position. There was some support from members who felt that there was no harm in an unpaid chairman making his views known.
5. It was **agreed** that in future Motions to be sent out with notice of AGM thereby allowing considered debate.
6. Joe Dunne apologised and withdrew his comments, made at the previous meeting (AGM 2 April), comparing the Coop CB to the board of Anglo-Irish Bank.
7. **Motions**
 - B1: Name of Cafe (Joe Dunne)
Decision: Whoever manages cafe has liberty to name cafe
 - B2: Consider cafe operators as producer members - **Withdrawn**
 - B3: The Cafe operators - **Withdrawn**
 - E1: Expansion of the Co-op - Motion **dismissed**
 - E2: Process to review raison-d'être - Motion **dismissed**
 - D1: Increase of discount - Compromise: Working group to be set up (to include a CB member) to look into this issue.
 - D2: Preference to consolidation prior to expansion - **Passed**
 - D3: Budgeting and planning of new developments - **Passed**
 - C: Boycott of Israeli produce - Put to vote but not passed as 75% majority not reached. Labelling (please see April 2nd minutes) to be looked into.
 - A1: Working Groups - **Passed**

Dublin Food Co-op AGM continuation, 16 April 2009

A2: Recording benefit-in-kind contributions to charitable organisations – **Passed**

A3: Notification of possible revocation of permission to campaigning groups - **Withdrawn**

8. Co-option of Arthur Dignam

A proposal (by Joe Dunne) that Arthur be co-opted, in his current position, for 1 year was accepted.

To address concern amongst members regarding the resignation and co-option mechanism, it was proposed that a working group be formed to look into the issue and draft a proposal to be put to the 2010 AGM

9. Joe Dunne awarded life-time membership of Co-op and thanked for his enormous contribution to DFC