**Minutes of The Green Gram Annual Members' Meeting**

**Sunday 28th September 2025, 2.30-4.30pm**

**Avonway West Room**

**Present:** 29 Members and 5 non-Members present. 35 Members sent apologies and voted in advance (all in favour of both resolutions)

1. **Chairman's Introduction** - Paul Harding welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the business that was to be conducted.
2. **Business Manager's report** – Jo Anderson outlined the progress made during the previous year and discussed some of the improvements made, (including the Peanut Butter machine) and those planned for the coming year. She also gave a brief introduction to some of the smaller suppliers used by the shop. Jo introduced and welcomed Debbie Gifford who had recently been appointed to the role of Volunteer & Shop Support Assistant part-time.
3. **Treasurer's report** – Helen Harding outlined the financial position which showed healthy growth during the year. She also explained how the surplus from the income is reinvested in the shop.
4. **Outreach Co-ordinator's Role** – Wendy Reid gave an introduction to her role. She showed how her work helps to fulfil the aims of the shop by making people more generally aware of the need to re-use containers with recycling being much lower down the waste hierarchy. She spoke about the need to reach a wider audience particularly young people and new residents in the town.

**All of the presentations will be uploaded to the Members' section of the website shortly.**

**A Question-and-Answer Session followed:**

**Q: Who owns the shop premises?**

**A:** The premises are owned by locally based private landlords and a new lease has just been agreed which guarantees a further 5 years security.

**Q: Who started the Shop?**

A: Jo started the shop just before Covid . using a trailer to visit local communities. It soon became apparent that there was an appetite for a refill shop and a small group of customers helped Jo to set up the Community Benefit Society in premises in the town.

**Q: Is it easier to source products now than it was when the shop first started?**

**A:** Many of the suppliers are the same ones that Jo first started with but there is a constant need to monitor and compare availability and price. Other refill shops have been generous with their knowledge.

5. **Accounts to 31st March 2025 –** these had been circulated with the agenda. A vote to approve the accounts was taken and passed unanimously.
6. **Resolution that a professional audit is not required for 2025-2026.**
   Under Section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act the members of the Society shall not require a full audit of the accounts but shall require an Independent Examination by a qualified Auditor. – It was explained that the cost of a professional audit of approx.. £4,000 could be better spent on the aims and objectives of the shop. There is currently no requirement for a professional audit given the current turnover. The accounts have undergone an independent examination by a qualified Auditor which is a lower level of scrutiny and costs approx. £485. The Examiners Report is included with the accounts. The resolution was passed unanimously.
7. **The Chairman thanked everyone for their time and the members of the Committee for their efforts throughout the year**. Tea and Cake were enjoyed by all present.

13/9/24