

## GGT AGM 2023

Minutes of the AGM of the Glendale Gateway Trust on Tuesday 5 September 2023

7pm at the Cheviot Centre

Present: **Trustees:** Becci Murray, Julian Bales, Rose Lovett, Siobhan Younger, Patrick Sheard, Russell Walsh & Anthea Wood.

**Members:** Jenny Pollock, Helen Astley, Paulette Sheard, Pam Ratcliffe & Frank Mansfield.

**Guests:** Dennis Mullen, Karen Ridley, Keith Warmington & Rob Parson.

**Staff:** Karen Froggatt, Rachel Sinton, Gillian Lowes. Simon Crossthwaite & Lesley Robson.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Bob Burston, Marion Sinton, David Pulman, David Hughes, David & Sheila Tennet, John Kirkup, Barbara Rattcliff, Ann Love, Patsy Healey, Susan & Garth Tilt, Robert & Sue Armstrong, David & Margaret Buckle, James Joicey & Juliet Short.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM:** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2022.

3. **Matters Arising:** There were none.

4. **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

5. **Presentation of the Accounts:** a) Report of the Independent Examiners – There were no items of concern. b) Appointment and remuneration of the independent examiners – it was **agreed** to retain J H Greenwood at a fee of approximately £3K.

The accounts will be online very shortly. After a period of fragility the trust now looks reasonably resilient; having survived Covid, Storm Arwen etc. Bond repayments have all been made – the trust is very grateful for this show of community support which provides a financial buffer when taking on big projects. A major loan has also been repaid to Unity Trust bank. The only remaining loan is to the Quaker bank, which is capital only.

Some large investments have been made to improve the housing stock, including a new roof on Roddam Dene House. Improvements and repairs are always ongoing.

A new finance package has been put in place which is more up to date and easier to understand.

Julian thanked members, trustees and staff for their help and support during his time as trustee and treasurer.

6. **Report from the chair of trustees – Becci Murray:** Gemma Douglas has moved on – she was thanked for her years of working for the trust. Julian has completed his term as trustee and was thanked for his service. The necessity of appointing a treasurer is being investigated. Patrick is standing down as vice chair, but will remain a trustee for the final year of his term. Cindy Wait & Amanda Worlock have stepped down as trustees since the last AGM. Three new trustees have been co-opted and now is the time for a formal election; Matthew Walsh (known as Russell) nominated by Rose and seconded by Siobhan. Anthea Wood nominated by Julian and seconded by Siobhan. Rose Lovett nominated by Patrick and seconded by Russell.

**All elected unanimously.**

Rose was nominated as vice chair by Patrick and seconded by Siobhan and **elected unanimously.**

This marked the formal part of the meeting.

All staff were thanked. There is real excitement about all the projects and partnership working happening across Glendale and there is a real buzz around the Cheviot Centre.

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- 7. Staff reports:** The trust has three new members of staff; Gillian Lowes – Communications & projects, Simon Crossthwaite – Properties and Lesley Robson - Rural advocate & inclusion officer.

**Gillian** told the meeting about the many projects being run at the Cheviot Centre and across Glendale. These include one off activities and ongoing groups and activities. Many are well established and others are still in an exploratory phase – for example a car club.

**Lesley** will be a voice for our rural communities. She will assess the impact of policies on North Northumberland and connect communities with services. This is a new and exciting role.

**Simon** has taken on looking after the housing and commercial properties owned by the trust. Many minor repairs have been carried out by local tradespeople and some bigger maintenance projects are in hand.

Karen thanked them for their presentations and for bringing new ideas and enthusiasms to the trust. There is lots going on with community engagement and partnership working – building relationships helps bring in funding for a variety of projects. The trust is always looking to develop ways to support the community in these still very difficult economic times. Updates; Cheviot Centre will offer a “warm space” again this winter. Delays at Old Barclays Bank due to planning issues – hope these will be resolved soon and the bistro may be open by Christmas. GGT nominated for a Kings Award. It looks to be a busy and exciting year ahead.

- 8. Questions:** \*What is the trust doing as an exemplar in environmental action e.g. more solar panels? Most of our buildings are not suitable for more solar panels. The car club could cut down on the number of cars locally. All tenants have been advised on energy efficiency. The repair café will encourage recycling and reduce waste. \*Why will work at old Barclays be done by London contractors? The bistro owners have an experienced team doing work off site and will be ready to go once all permissions are granted. They have worked with them before – and finding local contractors can be very difficult and time-consuming!

Becci thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for coffee and cake and further conversation.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm