

**Minutes of the AGM of the Glendale Gateway Trust on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
7.00pm at the Cheviot Centre**

Present:

**Trustees**

Patrick Sheard	(Chair)Elected Member
Frank Mansfield	Elected Member
Julian Bales	Elected member
Shirley Mills	Co-opted member
Rob Marriner	Elected member
Patsy Healey	Elected member

**Employees**

Tom Johnston	CEO (And member)
Rachel Sinton	GGT Administrator

**Patrons**

John Kirkup

**Members**

Bob Snooks, Jenny Pollock, Chrys Murphy, Marion Sinton, Linda Witson, Alfreda Hindmarsh, Sheila and David Tennet, David Pulman, Bill Ferguson, Joyce Robertson, Kath Lohfink, Bob Burston, Jane Pannell, Pat Gibson, Brian Watson, David Buckle, Judy Kirby, John Davidson, Sue and Robert Armstrong,

**Guests**

Sammy Ledgerwood, Kath Maley, Lynne Pringle, Helen Curry, Ian Curry, Andrew Haig, Michael Stanwix, Tony Kirsop, Stuart Fearn, Gill Brooks, Tracey Wiezaek, Stuart Miller, Karen Richardson, Ginny Snooks, Siobhan Younger and Karen Middlemiss

1 **Apologies:**

David Bull, Linda Murray, Eileen Lyons, Paulette Sheard, Pam Ratcliffe, Ann Love, Barbara Rattcliff, Sue Rudge, Brian Cowen, Bill Eugster, & Margaret Buckle.

2 **Minutes of the last AGM:** These were agreed as a true record.

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

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

5 **Resolution – Changes to Articles:**

After a brief explanation to the meeting Patsy put forward the following;

**MOTION:** “This Meeting agrees to change the GGT Articles and memorandum of Association to create a Board comprising 9 elected trustees plus an option to co-opt up to three trustees, and to change reference to ‘audit’ to ‘independent examination”

Both proposals were **approved** by the members.

6 **Presentation of the accounts:** Julian told the meeting that the accounts are online and available from the GGT office as a paper copy. They have been fully audited and there is nothing to report of an untoward nature – they are a true and honest account.

The accounts show a small surplus in unrestricted funds – we continue with a fragile sustainability.

a) Report of the Auditors – Greaves Grindle are satisfied with full compliance of the accounts with Charity Commission rules etc.

b) Appointment & Fixing of remuneration of the auditors – it was **agreed** that Greaves Grindle should be appointed to audit the accounts again next year.

7 **Election of Trustees:** Three of our trustees stood down at the meeting having served three periods of three years. Patrick thanked Patsy Healey, Frank Mansfield and Rob Marriner for the huge amount of work they have done for the trust over the past nine years – they will all remain involved with the trust in various advisory capacities. Our two co-opted trustees, **Shirley Mills and Bill Eugster**, with no other nominations were **elected unopposed**.

8 **Looking Ahead:**

Before looking ahead Patrick looked back briefly on the year since the last AGM; The Carnegie UK twin town project is coming to fruition with further planters recently installed at the bottom of Church Street adding to those on the Peth. These, in conjunction with the hugely increased number of planters in the town, have brought a wonderful improvement to the look and atmosphere of Wooler.

The Youth Hostel has completed a full season under its new management – they have risen to the challenge and greatly improved the hostel and the visitor experience. Much of the work of the GGT is maintaining what we do but also looking out for new opportunities to make life better for the people of Glendale. New projects need to be sustainable and of benefit to the community. We also will always ask ourselves if we are the best organisation to take on a particular project.

At a recent awayday several priorities were identified – here are three of them;

- “Gearing up for Gefrin” A cross party/multi agency group was set up to look at what could be done to reap the benefit of future increased visitor numbers. Three major themes were identified;
  1. First Impression Count – we need to look at the town from a visitor perspective and try to improve the things we are perceived to be getting wrong. A survey was launched to gather as much information as possible from residents and visitors.
  2. Dark Skies – Can we encourage people to stay longer by promoting the stars? NNPA will lead on how we set about this.
  3. Branding – what is the message? More than just the gateway to the Cheviots. Do we need a logo to go across all marketing? Jude Leitch to lead on this.

Everybody is welcome to get involved if they are interested.

- Employment – Ad Gefrin and the new chip factory will bring increased employment to the area. This project is looking at issues around local employment and what the problems are and how they might be resolved. Several local businesses have been spoken to already and the recurring theme seems to be a problem with the apprenticeship scheme. This seems to be a problem for rural areas.
- Support of the High Street – A brief is needed to guide future support – this will be a broad brush – not just shops. High Streets are problem across the country, with no easy answers. Need to look at the community as a whole – health, housing, entertainment etc. It is important that the community is prepared to help the High Street thrive.

**New Projects:**

- I. **Website.** As part of the Carnegie UK twin town project we were inspired to improve our gateways, including our digital gateway to Wooler. Our website was looking tired and was not suitable for use on a mobile device. A new site has been launched – a showcase for Wooler and Glendale, signposting to information on many partner sites. All feedback welcome – [www.visitwooler.org](http://www.visitwooler.org)
- II. **Newcastle Building Society.** The trust has been approached by NBS, who are looking at opening new ventures in rural areas that have lost their banking facilities. The CEO of NBS, Andrew Haig, was welcomed – he spoke to the meeting about

the plans. The aim of the society is to encourage people to save, to give them advice and help with home ownership. They believe in community and being close to people. They have recently opened a similar community branch in Yarm, which has helped to save their library service. They are also about to open within a community centre in Hawes. In Wooler they will be a small branch, but with big ideas. The hope is to have the branch open within the Cheviot Centre by the end of the year – he encouraged all to use it in order to make the venture a commercial success.

- III. Barclays Bank. When the Wooler branch closed in November 2018 the trust initially asked them if they would like to gift the building to the community – to no avail. We asked them not to sell it to an absent investor who would simply “land-bank” it – when we heard that this might be about to happen the trust once again approached the bank and offered two thirds of the asking price so that the building could be used for community benefit – this time they said yes! Contracts have yet to be exchanged but planning is ongoing. The top two floors will be converted to affordable housing. The ground floor will need to something that supports and enhances the High Street – sustainable and beneficial. We will be asking for thoughts and ideas from across the community.

9 **Questions from members and guests:**

- Bill Ferguson and Michael Stanwix spoke about the Youth Drop-In being the only place offering activities for young people but that they struggle financially. They asked if the trust might reconsider the rent charged on their High Street property. This will be looked at again in the near future. Alfreda wondered if NBS might be able to help
- Jane Pannell said that the Intergenerational group and the Neighbourhood plan group had done a lot of work on employment, adding that it was important to look at the hinterland, not just Wooler. It was suggested she talk to Frank about shared information.

Everybody was invited downstairs to enjoy the buffet  
The meeting closed at 8.12pm