

Minutes of the AGM (2020) of the Glendale Gateway Trust
Wednesday 20th January 2021
7.00pm via Zoom

Present:

Trustees

Patrick Sheard	(Chair)Elected Trustee
Julian Bales	Elected Trustee
Shirley Mills	Elected Trustee
Mark Robson	Co-opted Trustee
Cindy Thatcher- Wait	Co-opted Trustee
Bill Eugster	Elected Trustee
Becci Murray	Co-opted Trustee

Employees

Tom Johnston	CEO (And member)
Rachel Sinton	GGT Administrator
Gemma Douglas	GGT Marketing & Admin Assistant

Patrons

John Kirkup

Members

Frank Mansfield, Patsy Healey, Bob Burston, Lord Joicey, Judy Kirby, Pam Ratcliff, Jane Pannell, Alfreda Hindmarsh, Siobhan Younger

1 **Apologies:**

Eileen Chivers, David Pulman, Brian Cowan, Marion Sinton

Patrick welcomed everyone to a rather late AGM-this is actually the AGM for the year which ended 31 March 2020!

2 **Minutes of the last AGM:** Last meeting was 10 July 2019. These were agreed as a true record.

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

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

5 **Presentation of the accounts:** Julian presented three items, drawing members' attention to the accounts, and to the statement from the auditors that there is nothing to report of an untoward nature – the Trustees don't see anything of conflict with the financial statement within the accounts.

He encouraged members to read the Trustees' report

- Greaves Grindle are satisfied with full compliance of the accounts with Charity Commission rules etc.
- Appointment & Fixing of remuneration of the independent examiners – it was **agreed** that Greaves Grindle should be appointed to examine the accounts again next year.
- The Pandemic has had a significant impact on Trust income both from social activities and through supporting the local community. However a combination of staff flexibility, the furlough scheme and local and national grants, means at this point there will be no significant impact on this financial year on our unrestricted funds. Initially we thought this would be for 6 months (in the report), but we can now extend that for the full year. The Trust is in reasonable financial health for the current year despite the pandemic.
FM asked what support in the community meant. JB responded saying it involved financial support- for example suspension of rent to some of our tenants.

6 **Election of Trustees:**

Patrick explained since our last AGM (in July 2019) Anthony Murray has stepped down as a Trustee after many years' service. Patrick thanked him for his enormous contribution to the Trust over a long period time, and wished him very well with our significant and substantial thanks.

He also thanked David Bull who stepped down from his role as Trustee last year due to personal reasons. He brought a lot of experience to the Trust at a time when it was very much needed.

And finally thanks to Bill Eugster who steps down this evening because he is moving away to take up an appointment for three years. Bill has been a tremendous link with community work and life and we have appreciated that enormously.

We have been fortunate over the years to be able attract Trustees who contribute very willingly above and beyond what is expected of them.

There are 4 to approve at this AGM:

1. Cindy Thatcher- Wait- currently co-opted
2. Mark Robson- currently co-opted
3. Becci Murray- currently co-opted
4. Siobhan Younger

Cindy Thatcher-Wait, Mark Robson, Becci Murray & Siobhan Younger, with no other nominations were **elected unopposed**.

7 **Looking Ahead:**

Before looking ahead Patrick looked back briefly on the year (2019) since the last AGM:

We were working on a website re-design for the Glendale Gateway Trust-which was born out of the Carnegie UK project. Carnegie identified our digital gateway (into Glendale) needed revamped. We were aiming to make it more user friendly and attractive to visitors. The redesign is completed and we now have a smart website which is easy to update. This project has been successfully delivered.

He reported we were in the early negotiation stages with the Newcastle Building Society to open up a branch in the Cheviot Centre. This happened in December 2019, and has been a huge success. It makes a useful addition to the services offered at the Cheviot Centre. The ethos of the Trust and the Cheviot Centre has always been to approach sustainability from the point of view of attracting a cluster of services which would be unable to stand alone in the community. It creates a centre of sustainability.

Finally, we had just agreed to purchase the former Barclays Bank building, and were intending to convert it into two floors of affordable housing, and the ground floor for commercial use. Since our last AGM, the building has been redeveloped and the two flats were let immediately. The project was completed just as the Pandemic was starting to take hold. We were delighted that despite the restrictions caused by the Pandemic, work was able to be completed.

The letting of the ground floor hasn't progressed due to restrictions, but once the economic situation eases, we will be looking to let it as soon as we can. We're looking for a tenant who will provide additional footfall, is an advantage to all the other traders and adds to the offer already available.

In Spring 2020 the pandemic hit and this threw projections and future plans into a hiatus. Nonetheless, the work of the Trust continued in an adjusted way. Early on in the pandemic, the Trustees established some very clear priorities:

1. To support our commercial and residential tenants

2. We became a partner in the multi- agency response headed up by the Parish Council. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with lots of different organisations across Glendale in the response to the community.

Our role as a Trust was to:

- disseminate information and organise leaflet drops to every household in Wooler
- to assemble a database of volunteers who were able to help their neighbours in various ways
- we took on the running of the Food Bank for Wooler which was no longer accessible to the public at it's base in the Fire Station. The opening hours were extended in anticipation of increased use. The expectation is that it will continue to grow in use as furlough arrangements etc. come to an end.

3. To protect the Trust:

Early action was taken to protect the Trust and it's income to allow it to continue in the long term. This included applying for available grants, and encouraging staff to minimise our outgoings by accessing the furlough scheme.

Patrick thanked the staff and paid tribute to them for their flexibility throughout.

In the midst of it all we rediscovered community, and during the pandemic we were approached by Locality to make a film about the community that exists in Glendale to be shown at their annual convention.

Patrick played the [film](#) and commented it has been heartening to see so much of the community pulling together and looking after each other.

Looking forward to 2021:

Patrick explained looking ahead is difficult to do at the moment, but we do have the following on the agenda for the rest of the year:

- I. Community Recovery. We don't know what shape that will take. We are listening and consulting and we will do our bit to help the community recover.
- II. Develop a Remote Learning Hub. Before the pandemic we had plans to look at introducing a remote learning centre in to the Cheviot Centre. These plans have advanced as people have recognised the value of one. We are currently finalising funding and hope that for 2021 we will be able to establish a state of the art remote learning centre that will be something of a pioneer for rural communities.
- III. Developing a Dark Skies tourism offer in Glendale we are looking to capitalise on the increase of staycations by developing a dark skies tourism offer in Glendale. We are working with other partner organisations to work out how we do that. We want to encourage people to enjoy the dark skies of Glendale.
- IV. Providing opportunities for promoting local food production and visibility
We are in the early of stages of looking at how we can promote local food production. Perhaps by developing a local food trail, and encouraging local businesses to maximize the impact of locally produced food. We will do this in a coordinating role to help the local economy.
- V. Supporting high street sustainability
We are looking at how we can work with other organisations to explore how we can continue to do this.

8 Questions from members and guests:

There were none.

Patrick thanked all for attending online
The meeting closed at 7:48pm