

GGT AGM minutes 2021

Minutes of the AGM of the Glendale Gateway Trust on Wednesday 21 January 2022

7pm at The Cheviot Centre

Present: **Trustees:** Patrick Sheard, Shirley Mills, Julian bales, David Hughes, Siobhan Younger, Becci Murray & Cindy Wait.

Staff: Karen Froggatt, Sue Mitchell & Rachel Sinton.

Members: Paulette Sheard, Jenny Pollock, Helen Astley, Anne Sture, Patsy Healey, Marion Sinton, Frank Mansfield, Bob Snooks & Barbara Rattcliff(Patron)

Guests: Alan Sture.

- 1 **Apologies:** David & Margaret Buckle, Eileen Lyons, David Pulman, Sue Rudge, Noel Roy, James Joicey, Chrys Murphy, Linda Murray, Brian Cowen, Amanda Worlock, Harry & Eileen Wilson, Sheila & David Tennet, Jane Pannell, Ruth Dickinson, Bob Burston, Mike Alport, Pam Ratcliffe, John Kirkup & Sue Welch.
- 2 **Minutes of previous AGM:** The minutes were **agreed** as a true record of the meeting held, via zoom, on 20 January 2021(The 2020 AGM)
- 3 **Matters Arising:** There were none.
- 4 **Declarations of Interest:** There were none.
- 5 **Presentation of the Accounts:** The accounts are available online on the GGT website.
 - 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.

Frank Mansfield asked what the financial effect of the Covid pandemic had been on the trust. Julian replied that at the start of the pandemic there was a discussion about risk – it was thought there could be a substantial financial loss of income to the trust. However, due to staff furlough, support and recovery grants the financial impact has, so far been minimal. The trust is still supporting some tenants and the Cheviot Centre remains quieter than before.
- 6 **Election of Trustees:** Trustees can be co-opted at any time and then elected at the AGM if they wish to stand. This year Amanda Worlock and David Hughes were co-opted and are now standing for election. Amanda lives in Lowick and David in Milfield – both are on the respective Parish Councils. They bring knowledge of the wider Glendale to the trust. They were both proposed for election by Patrick Sheard and seconded by Shirley Mills – **elected unanimously.**
- 7 **Chair's report:** To review and look forward.
 - Due to Covid the AGM was late last year and went beyond the financial year end. Last year was about “protection” from the risk of the pandemic, but also the importance of carrying on the work of the trust. The flexibility of staff and some grant funding made this possible.
 - Protection of our tenants was a priority. Most residential tenants were financially unaffected but commercial tenants were hit hard. GGT helped finding grants and rent holidays/delays.
 - Protecting the community - the trust has been running the Glendale food bank – which continues to be needed as government financial support comes to an end. We have continued to offer some space for people to find sociability when allowed

which has been vital for many.

The trust has worked with partner organisations to establish community conversations – to try to find out what people would like to see happening locally as we come out of the pandemic.

- There have been some major changes since the last AGM, not least in staffing. Tom Johnston retired after over 20 years at the helm of the GGT, and we have welcomed Karen Froggatt as the new CEO. Sue Mitchell has also joined the staff team to help with the general running of the trust now that Rachel has dropped to part time and Gemma is more involved with project work. The trust is changing its approach slightly to be more concentrated on rebuilding grass-root community links and activities. New people prepared to be trustees are always welcome.
- The rules of the trust mean that the chair is only in place for three years – Patrick has over-run slightly due to Covid and staff changes – but it is now time to hand over to Becci Murray. She has lots of experience in the charity and community sector.
- Patrick finished by saying that we live in a great community where people pull together and that the trust embodies that philosophy. He thanked all those who contribute to the ongoing work of the trust as they continue to strive to make life better.

8 **A word from the new CEO:** Karen has been in post for eleven weeks – she has been gathering information and planning the way ahead. In the midst of this Storm Arwen blew in – creating many immediate challenges for the trust, with significant damage to several properties. Despite this she has lots of ideas and aspirations which will be shaped into a strategic plan;

- More working with grass roots organisations.
- Work harder with the message of what GGT does – more PR and myth busting.
- Work more with young people and cross-generational activities.
- Can the trust lead the way to help get people back into social interaction – set up a volunteer committee to organize more events at the Cheviot Centre.
- Housing for locals vs holiday homes – can the trust facilitate this important conversation?
- Carbon Neutral targets - can the trust facilitate this important conversation?
- Fuel poverty – a big issue in rural areas.
- Community cohesion and loneliness. How can we reach out?
- High Street viability.
- Community involvement in the natural environment.
- Transport and linked rural issues.
- Social infrastructure – halls, pubs etc.
- Arts & Culture.
- There is a white paper on rural proofing – discussions are taking place with partner organisations.
- Remote learning – this can help in all sorts of areas to improve digital inclusion.
- Wooler schools – Karen & Gemma to attend some school assemblies to find out what the Cheviot Centre can offer the pupils – what would they like to see? The trust will also try to help with the rebuilding of the forest school, after the storm damage, by working with Northumberland log bank and possibly accessing grants which are not available to the school.
- Youth Drop-In. Meet with new staff there to discuss more ways of working together.
- Digital project – “storm-proofed” information points across the area. Working in

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partnership with Councillor Mather, NCC & Newcastle University.

- Launch a tenant survey which will help identify problems.
- Many of our old buildings are in need of some minor, and major, repairs.

The trust will have an “Awayday” in March to start pulling all these strands together into a cohesive programme of action.

- 9 **Works on Wooler Water & Haugh Head ford:** The trust is one of the partners working with the Tweed Forum on this project. For more information follow this link;
<https://tweedforum.org/our-work/projects/reconnecting-the-wooler-water/>
- 10 **New Chair of trustees:** Becci Murray introduced herself to the meeting – thanking Patrick and saying he would be a hard act to follow. She has lived in Wooler, on and off, for over 30 years. Her background is in community work and the charitable sector – she currently heads up Berwick Community Trust as their Operations Director. She says that Covid has given us a chance to step back, take stock and discover what our priorities are. There are exciting times ahead.
- 11 **Questions from the floor:**
- Patsy Healey thanked Patrick for his service as chair of trustees, especially through the difficult last couple of years. She welcomed Becci to her new role.
 - Jenny Pollock asked about the ground floor of the old Barclays bank – it has been registered with a different agent who will advertise more widely. Any interested parties will be asked to submit their proposal and the trust will make a decision on what is the most viable, and best for the High Street.
 - Frank Mansfield commented that the trust had a good asset base which helped it survive through difficult times – he wondered how moving away from this into more community work would be funded? Julian replied that a good buildup of reserves helped make this possible and also most would be funded projects. Patrick added that having a good asset base makes other projects a possibility.

All were thanked for attending and invited downstairs for a buffet and further informal conversation.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm