

Gosforth Garden Village Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. on Thursday 18 November 2021

Apologies:

Minutes:

No Meeting held in 2020 due to COVID. 2019 Minutes approved, *proposed* by Louis Coles, seconded by Ken Douthwaite

Matters arising:

No matters arising.

Committee Appointments:

There were no proposals from the meeting other than those made in advance by the Committee: Audrey MacNaughton and Marjie Moffat to serve until 2024.

Chair's Report.

Chrissie Hall read out the Chair's report below

Welcome everyone to this year's AGM. It has been a long time since we have been able to meet publicly, and this has been a tough time for everyone coping with a global pandemic and in particular the lockdown periods. Yes, we are still here. It has been a very difficult time for all of us, but we have survived. We have received direct funding from the government, discounted our hirer rates and provided free access to the large, grassed area to help some groups return following lockdown. We have moved heaven and earth to keep the Hall open, ensuring it fulfilled Covid regulations following lockdown and to ensure clubs and groups returned. We have promoted usage and will continue to keep it in good shape for the future.

I am very proud of the fact that we have been able to continue the GGVA through the tireless commitment and determination of our volunteers on the Management Committee. We would like to welcome new Committee members Lynn Bryden, Louis Coles, Pat Harvey, Pauline Jobes and Audrey MacNaughton to the Management Committee and with regret say goodbye to Jackie Fender who has resigned due to work commitments. We will miss her clarity and support; she has worked tirelessly for the Association and thankfully will continue to cut the grass. The Committee have learnt the new skills needed to meet via Zoom during lockdown and engaged with new groups to fulfil our remit from the Trust Deed.

To this end we have asked and received approval from Garden Village residents to increase the Map of Garden Village to include the newer houses on the Cheswick Drive estate, which range from Salters Bridge to Marks and Spencer and Shields Grove. We are excited to welcome new member residents and hope to increase the number of our Management Committee volunteers from 6 to 9.

Lockdown saw the enforced closure of the Village Hall. When the regulations were relaxed, we ensured that the Hall was Covid-safe to support groups returning to the site, and also reduced rents and offered the outdoor space free of charge in order for them to get back on their feet. This was much appreciated by our groups.

However, despite these support measures, our beloved Playgroup wasn't able to sustain their business and Barbara Dobie decided to cease trading. She cited the loss of business to new all-day private nurseries and a dwindling number of new children and a general lack of business following lockdown as her main reasons for closure. Barbara has retired and we wish her and her staff the very best of luck for the future.

Our Village Hall has a new sign, and, as I'm sure you will have noticed, it has also been redecorated. However, there are still a few maintenance issues outstanding, but they are in hand. The Management Committee members continue to work tirelessly to ensure the Village Hall provides excellent facilities for residents of the Village and associates. We would like to

thank those who pay subscriptions and make donations and of course hirers who contribute to our income and are grateful for the care they take of our premises.

We are offering the Small Room to home workers and suchlike, because finally we were able to install Wi-Fi, which means people can book the room and use their laptops, or children can link with their school or friends. As with all bookings, this is accessible through our website booking system at ggva.co.uk, which I hope everyone has had a chance to see.

A number of charity events have recently been held in the Village Hall, and also many children's parties. Religious festivals have been held here too, and this year the Christmas Carol Celebrations will be held on Christmas Eve from 5pm until 7pm supported by a kind donation from ASDA, Last year's event was held outside the Hall and although a challenge for the adults the children loved it. We also had a resident walk around the village as Santa Claus. This year we will celebrate indoors. Everyone is welcome. Some people may wish to come after following the Christmas Trail.

Now is the time to repeat the thanks for continued support from the Parklands Councillors in helping to arrange another Notice Board on the cemetery fence and our Covid grant.

After 10 years as Chair, I think it is about time someone else had a chance to take the reins. I have recently become a grandmother for the second time and will be needed for nana duties, so I have decided to resign my post. However, I'm hoping to be able to continue as a volunteer on the Management Committee. I wish the new Chair the best of luck in bringing us back to full speed.

Thank you for attending. I'll pass you on to our Treasurer, Emma, to give you an outline of Association's finances.

Financial Report.

November management accounts were presented

An overview was given by the treasurer.

Statutory Accounts 2020-21

Overall total net surplus generated of £4,026 (2020: £14,203)

Total income was £15,974 (2020: £23,560)

Hall rental was significantly lower £2,234k (2020: £10,262k) due to the Covid-19 pandemic, regular rentals and private hire events couldn't go ahead.

Routine income (which mainly consists of the bowls and tennis club annual contribution and subscriptions) £832 (2020: £2,140), due to Covid-19 pandemic – e.g lockdowns etc.

Grant income increased due to a Covid-19 grant received from Newcastle County Council £12,689.

Expenditure was £11,947 (2020: £9,358)

The main increase is due to a proportion of grant paid over to the tennis and bowls club in 2020-21 £4k, offset by a catch up in water billing in the prior year (£249 2020:£1.470).

Bank balances are healthy at £8,587 in HSBC current account and £26,095 in the VM savings account. Reserves c/f were 34,754.

Election of new Chair.

Louis Coles put himself forward, seconded by Lynn Bryden.

Louis said he has big boots to fill and thanked the voluntary management committee for all their hard work. Louis commented about the hard work the volunteer management committee put in to keep the hall running. The future is bright and Louis thanked Chrissie for her hard work.

We are on the hunt for new members.

The big changes this year is the map.

Our three "Sections".

Sections are groups recognised as part of the Association, and each appoints a member to the Management Committee. Their status has to be confirmed at each AGM. The W.I. and the Bowls and Tennis Clubs were reappointed as Sections.

Ken Douthwaite will represent the Tennis Club

Melanie Proud will represent WI

John Fisher will represent the Bowls Club.

Deeds

Changes to the size of the 'village' were outlined and that it was stated that other changes were being made to the deed, to tidy up management arrangements. There were no objections raised from the floor of the meeting.

AOB

Steve a resident asked about children's chairs. We now have some in the shed and can be bought into the hall for parties.

Subscriptions are being decided upon

June 2022 is 10 years since the hall was erected so we are open to any ideas for celebrations. Graham resident suggested a calendar and a clock.

Parking is becoming problematic. Parkland Councillors to be asked about yellow lines or no parking on road.