

**Gosforth Garden Village Association**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 19:30 on Wednesday 13 July 2022**

**Apologies:** Audrey Macnaughton,

**Minutes:**

2021 Minutes approved, *proposed* by Pat Harvey, *seconded* by Ken Douthwaite.

**Matters arising:**

Subscriptions will be carried forward to monthly meeting

Parking becoming problematic. We have been in touch with the local council and are still discussing this.

**Committee Appointments:**

There were no proposals from the meeting other than those made in advance by the Committee:

Pauline Jobe retired from the Committee earlier in the year. Louis thanked Pauline for her contributions and her ongoing work.

Louis is stepping down as the chair due to personal circumstances. The Committee are working to find a new chair. Tara O'Connor and Umi Filby have joined the committee and to serve until 2025.

A show of hands was given for the Committee there were no objections, so Committee will remain as is.

Umi thanked Louis for his great work as chair.

**Chair's Report.**

Louis read his report.

Firstly, welcome again everyone to this year's AGM. Our last AGM was less than 12 months ago, however we continue to live through interesting times where we are all having to adjust to new normals seemingly every day. Throughout this, some things remain constant and for me - one of these is the tireless efforts of the Management Committee to continue to maintain and develop this truly special resource we have here in Garden Village. As a group of volunteers, I am truly humbled by the work that these brilliant people do to keep this space working for our community, holding it secure for future generations and adapting what we do as a Committee to keep meeting the needs of the Garden Village Community.

This year has been superb. Once again, the Committee have pulled together to organise the Christmas Carol event, where we were able to open the Hall and it was wonderful to see faces old and new joining in with our annual celebrations.

In the first part of the year the Management Committee came together to hold a development day where we took time out from the business of running and maintaining to pause and reflect on why we do what we do.

We came up with our 'mission statement' which I'd like to share with you all this evening:

"To actively manage the Village Hall and site in service of the residents of Garden Village. To ensure the Hall and site supports our local community by making it accessible and available for a range of diverse leisure and health promoting activities. Acting as custodians of the Hall and site so that it grows to support the community of Garden Village today, tomorrow and into the future."

We also agreed on some areas we would like to focus on:

1. Tackling the challenge of loneliness
2. Supporting the young people of garden village
3. Helping young families

To this end we have recently held a successful lunch club and hope to do more of this in the future. We have also recently repurposed some compost bins to create a children's allotment which has been spearheaded by a wonderful volunteer Claire Trevor, ably supported by our own Chrissie!

The Committee pulled together with the support of Oliva to create a wonderful Jubilee and Hall 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration; where, with a few bumps on the way we were able to close the road, open the Hall, provide food, special guests, entertainment and even a wonderful birthday cake! At our last AGM we approved the changes to the Trust Deed. I am pleased to report that these have now been registered with the Charities Commission. We continue to maintain the building and improve the site. This makes the Hall an attractive venue to book, and we have seen some diverse and very successful events held here – both one offs and regular bookings. These bookings, along with the support of our sections, resident subscriptions and grant funding we are able to access, provide the income we need to run, maintain and improve our Hall and put on the aforementioned events for the Community.

So not only do the Committee run and maintain the Hall, we also organise events for Garden Village. Our Community belongs to us all, and the Committee cannot do everything, so we need your help! If you would be interested in organising a Community event, please let us know. If you just want to lend a hand in one of the events that is being organised, again, just let us know. There was a superb example of this from residents who organised a fundraiser for the humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine in Spring. However, this wonderful facility is only as good as the events it hosts and that's where we need your support. So please do speak to any member of the Committee or email [chair@ggva.co.uk](mailto:chair@ggva.co.uk) the more you support the Hall, the more it will benefit our Community.

Once again thank you for attending. I'll pass you on to our Treasurer, Emma, for the finance report.

### **Financial Report.**

Management accounts were presented  
An overview was given by the treasurer.

### **Statutory Accounts 2021-22**

**Overall total net surplus generated of £5,794 (2021: £4,026)**

**Total income was £20,146 (2021: £15,974)**

Hall rental was significantly higher £6,434k (2021: £2,234k) due to coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, regular rentals and private hire events could not go ahead. Private bookings had returned to good levels, with additional regular bookings, such as Craft Group, Kixx and various Yoga and Tai Chi groups. The Playgroup ceased early in the year, but private bookings have remained strong.

Routine income (which mainly consists of the bowls, WI and tennis club annual contribution and subscriptions) £3,023 (2021: £1,030), due to improved performance since the Covid-19 pandemic, also we received additional donations e.g., the Asda Foundation £510.00

Grant income continued at £10,667 compared to £12,689 in the prior year for Covid-19 grants received from Newcastle City Council.

Expenditure was £14,352 (2021: £11,947)

The increase is mainly attributable to higher repairs and maintenance costs, which included cladding repair and hall redecoration.

Bank balances were healthy at £14,423 in HSBC current account and £26,125 in the Virgin Money savings account. Reserves c/f were 40,548.

## **FY22/23 points to raise**

Bank balances are currently:

HSBC has reduced to £6,349

Deposit account is the same

Expenditure incurred since y/e includes:

Work to the side entrance, Windows replaced, Fencing and Gate replaced along with adhoc items.

Thanks to the Peter Ibbotson for auditing the accounts.

## **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.

## **John Fisher representing the Bowls Club.**

As shown by the Club Honours Board in the Hall, the Club has only 6 years to go until we turn 100, having been founded in 1928.

On a shorter time-scale, the Club membership has grown from last year's 45 to the present 57. This is due to the arrival of four established players from other clubs and a good number of local residents who have signed up to try out bowls for the rest of the season, mainly joining after the Jubilee Open Session on the green. Our policy is to give free membership for the first season of anyone joining the club, which is not uncommon among bowls clubs. Time will tell if all the new members decide to take up the sport.

We have teams in leagues that play on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (both now welcoming lady players), mixed leagues on Thursday afternoons and evenings, as well in a more relaxed Friday Friendly League in the afternoons. This gives beginners and less competitive players the chance to play against other clubs, but in a more relaxed setting. It provides a good framework for social interaction, which club members also enjoy on Monday afternoons, the only weekday when there are no league matches. Bowls can be enjoyable to players of varying skill levels and ages, and also to players with medical conditions.

The club welcomes work the Association has undertaken this year: replacement of the wooden guard rail to safeguard the drop down to the green and the adaptation of the North entrance which now allows key-pad access to a toilet at all times. It is now available to site users even if the Hall is locked and alarmed, with the added bonus that a toilet can now be used without impinging on any activities which hall users might be engaged in indoors.

John thanked the committee for the building works to the North Access to allow access to toilet while hall in use.

Thanks also to Colin Moore for keeping the green in a good state of repair.

## **Ken Douthwaite representing the Tennis Club**

Firstly, we are pleased to have come through the pandemic relatively unscathed, and that tennis is now back to normal. We would like to thank the association for all the support it has given us through the last couple of years. Our membership actually increased as a result of Covid, and we have managed to maintain those numbers this year.

Our adult and student membership currently sits at around 50 members. We also have family members and junior/parent/guardian membership that sits at around 20 in total.

Alongside this membership we have our coaching programmes run by our coach Ian Pearson-Brown, who has been coaching at our club now for over 20 years. The coaching goes from strength to strength and one of Ian's assistants is Anthony Symmonds from the Village who is going through his coaching

training partly funded by the club.

Coaching takes place on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. The courses vary in length and cover many age groups, (we have children as young as 3 starting coaching with their parents). We try and provide coaching to the maximum number of children possible at a reasonable cost.

Currently there are over 70 children and around 15 adults on our various coaching programmes.

The club runs social tennis sessions throughout the week for members and some of these continue all year round. We also hold several occasional charity days with fun tournaments.

We have an online booking system for members to ensure that everyone has equal access to the courts. This was developed because of the pandemic restrictions and has proved very popular and useful, increasing the usage of the courts.

The club also has teams in several North East tennis leagues for those who enjoy competitive tennis and we even have a winter league team for a few hardy souls.

The club is always looking for new members. Our subscription rates are some of the most competitive in the Newcastle area and we would love to have more members who lived within the Village area.

There was great interest shown from local residents during the Jubilee open day and we hope that that translates into more new members.

There is more information about the club on the association website and our own website, or you can see me after the meeting. There is also a list of contact details displayed on a board beside the entrance to the courts.

### **Melanie Proud representing the WI**

Garden Village WI is now back up and running as normal. We restarted meetings in September 2021, and then paused again in Dec and January due to the omicron variant. We would like to thank the committee for their support during this time.

During the first lockdowns, we kept in touch with our members through an email newsletter, which we also delivered hard copies of to the significant number of members without access to email. We have 2 sub-groups, a walking group and a book group, and they continued to meet as and when restrictions allowed, adhering to the ever-changing rules in order to do so.

On our return, because the situation was still quite changeable, we decided to run meetings ourselves rather than bring in speakers. We had one speaker from the Great North Air Ambulance. Other meetings we held included a Christmas craft night, an Easter bunny beetle drive, and a quiz. We have booked several speakers for over the next year, including talks from an accordion player and a gardener. We have also scheduled more member run evenings as these proved to be popular and fun.

Our membership is renewed in April and unfortunately, we have lost around one third of our members. We currently have 26 members and while we are still viable as a WI with our current membership, we are promoting the WI to gain more members. Including at the Jubilee event which garnered some interest from Garden Village, including many who had not heard that we have a WI.

The WI was started in 1915 to give women a voice and to be a force for good in the community. Today, it is the largest women's organization in the UK and offers the opportunity to meet women in your local area, to make friends and make a difference in your community. We campaign nationally on a wide range of issues and provide life-long learning and self-development opportunities.

Garden Village WI is a multi-generational WI with women of all ages attending, including over half from Garden Village and some original members from when it was founded in 1986. We don't do jam and only do Jerusalem on special occasions! We do, do fun and friendship and would love to welcome any woman to a meeting or two to see what we are all about.

Louis talked about the vibrancy and diversity we have in the Garden Village. Louis thanked the sections for the work they do.

### **AOB**

Heating system has been changed to a to be done remotely but Steve Hall would like a couple of volunteers to go through system. To be put onto the next monthly Management Committee agenda. John Fisher proposed his thanks to Pat Harvey and Steve Hall for the work involved in changing the heating system.

Jackie Fender wanted to thank John Fisher for many years of support to the Hall.

**Meeting closed at 20:15**