

Transition Tynedale Limited
A private company, limited by guarantee (no share capital issued)

Company number 08135495

Wednesday 9 December 2020, 7.00pm
Via Zoom

Present

Stuart Page; Andy Lees; Kevin Smith; Wendy Breach; Rosemary Theobalds; Matilda Bevan; Colin Gallagher; Lowri Potts; Pixie Jewels; Megan Payne; Chris Payne; Ariane Baty; John Dark; Jane Brantom; Jennie Maughan; Mark Shipperlee; Nick Morphet; Kathryn Libby; Kate Bramfitt

Apologies

Peter Topping; Ted Liddle; Elizabeth Leonard; James Swabey

MINUTES

1. Introduction and Welcome

Outline of AGM given by meeting Chair, acting Secretary and Director, Stuart Page.

- Challenging year with covid but a lot still has been achieved.
- Attempt to re-energise leadership with the workshop at the beginning of the year. Couldn't fully act on strategy workshop points due to covid restrictions. Number of people stood down from positions for various reasons over the year.
- Believe things are looking a lot healthier from this point forward. Look forward to 2021 to get back together again.

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 13 November 2019

Approved by all.

3. Director's report presented by Stuart Page

- Established projects going well
- Hexham Space For Nature [HSFN] newly came under the Transition Tynedale [TT] wing in 2020 is a notable positive.

HSFN report- Andy Lees

- HSFN objective: 'to maximise the space for nature and opportunities for wildlife in our parks, gardens and open spaces'. Taking bits of land that are unused or not pretty.
- Two prongs to HSFN attack-
 - 1. Focusing on working in partnership with grounds maintenance authorities, councils, Karbon Homes etc.
 - 2. Engaging with local residents. To build a volunteer workforce to offer a partnership to grounds maintenance bodies.
- Current projects-
 - Last year persuading council to allow the meadow to develop in Sele.
 - Persuade town council to create a meadow opposite the cemetery. Seeded 13 months ago.

- Wall border in Sele. Council doesn't need to use glyphosate there, planted plants that can look after themselves- woodland plants- very successful. Planted thousands of wildflower plugs, since planted more. More long grass areas persuaded council to not mow. Permanent arrangement with the council. Nice to get out in small groups during restrictions.
- Priestlands residents association. Karbon Homes and Northumberland Country council. Meet with the council every month now. Trying to persuade the council to leave long grass areas. Hoping to start a small community garden which would require an asset transfer request from county council.
- Future / developing projects
 - Highford Estate up Causey Hill- already quite species rich in terms of wildflowers. Lack of management means areas will disappear. Council have been persuaded to look at some proposals to jointly consider with residents of the estate.
 - Hexham Swift Heaven- a winter project with its own sub-group. Making swift boxes to help a species in decline- decreased habitats etc
 - The Glade- partnering with Keda with Hexham Youth Initiative- gardening project, will add to diversity to the area
 - Tree strategy- county council don't have a strategy for replacing tree HSFN to write one and pressure council to adopt it
 - Spring guided walks- to engage with people and who what is here already and how different projects are developing
 - More plants swaps with other groups
 - More works at Sele- new woodland border; new trees adjacent to skatepark; further grassland diversification

Can follow on Twitter and email to sign up to newsletter hexhamnature@gmail.com

Edible Hexham and Community Garden report– Rosemary Theobalds

- Community Garden- Elizabeth and Richard have worked their socks off and continue to almost solely maintain the community garden. Future of the garden uncertain with the works scheduled for Hexham Middle School.
- Edible Hexham has done really well over this period, maintaining all the planters, Elizabeth done the beds in the Wentworth, new volunteer with Jane Torday, planters on forecourt at Hexham station. Three made by Mark with money from Northern Rail. Unfortunately the station forecourt has been dug up and a pipeline laid. Substantial fence remains and incarcerates two of the planters. Work started and stopped and the beginning of covid. Charity 'Journey' have the brief and funding for the platform and the forecourt, but Jane and Rosemary decided to cheer them up and plant them with flowers.

Orchards report- Matilda Bevan

- Two orchards up and running, about a dozen trees in each. One at Acomb first school and one at Enna café at Tyne Green.
- Lions charity help set up the Tyne Green- a sign will soon be installed saying it was enabled with their support.
- No further orchards planned but always open to possibility of new sites.

Cycling- Ted Liddle- absent

Apple pressing- Stuart Page

- Pat and Kate usually organise- didn't happen this year due to covid restrictions. Still have the presses and the appetite to do it again next year.

Potential for other projects- they are noted. Despite everything people have still been busy. TT can offer insurance cover and manage the financial side, as well as help bid for funding.

Zoom meeting timed out and rejoined

Financial report- Megan Payne

- Activity to end of July 2020
- Funds are carefully segregated so that each project is responsible for its own funding, but with general funds providing insurance, room hire and website charges, for example.
- Drop in income to the general funds with the usual events not running. A review of overheads has led to the suggestion that we no longer fund the website (£75), relying on Facebook and mailing lists to spread the word.
- Projects looking okay financially apart from Community Garden, which has a question mark over its existence with the expected sale of the school site. The grant from Greggs is largely untouched, and poised for action.
- No mention of the newest project, Hexham Space for Nature. Although active since the spring, funds raised and expenditure has happened in the new financial year and is in credit.
- Looking forward:
 - Welcome to lots of new members - The effects of better communication (thanks Kevin), and a resurgent interest in tackling the climate emergency
 - An increase in membership fees for the first time in TT history (?) has led to more stable general income.
 - Application to the Town Council COVID fund for funding to cover loss of income – positive decision received today but not sure of amount.

Conclusion: financially stable, but projects might want to

- Make a plan for forthcoming activity
- keep eyes open for funding opportunities

4. The confirmation or otherwise of the continuation of membership or retirement of those members of the board of directors retiring under the rules in the company articles of association.

- Stuart, Megan and Kate all stood down as Directors.
- Stuart was prepared to restand as Director and was voted in unanimously.
- Jane Brampton was proposed as a Director by Stuart, Megan seconded. Voted in unanimously.
- Ariane Batey, was proposed as a Director by Stuart, voted in unanimously

- Stuart relayed that there is no maximum number of Directors if anyone else wishes to stand, current Directors can co-opt in at a later date
- Megan was re-elected unanimously as Treasurer
- Stuart was re-elected unanimously as Secretary
- Position of Chair – had no interest – don't legally need a chair. Stuart stated that again if anyone would like to take on this role we can look to appoint, by members' vote, at a later date.

5. Resolutions:

5.1. That members confirm the proposal to modify the wording of Article 22 of the Articles of Association, from

At the first Annual General Meeting all members of the Board of Directors shall stand down. At every subsequent Annual General Meeting, all officers and one-third of the members of the Board of Directors, or if their number is not a multiple of three then the number nearest to one-third, shall retire from office. The members to retire shall be those longest in office since their last election. Regarding members of the Board of Directors who have been in office for the same length of time, the members to retire shall be selected by lot. A retiring Board member shall be eligible for re-election. Co-opted members of the Board shall retire at the Annual General Meeting following their appointment but shall be eligible for further co-option. All directors are subject to a maximum consecutive term of four years, with a compulsory one year gap at this point prior to re-standing for election.

To

At the Annual General Meeting all members of the Board of Directors shall stand down. Retiring Board members shall be eligible for re-election.

- Motion passed.

6. Members' proposed resolutions.

Nothing to report

7. Any other business.

- 7.1. Lowri Potts- suggested we might need more than three directors in case of sickness, etc
- 7.2. Lowri Potts also informed the meeting of the new seed and book swap in the old phone box on Hencotes, run by David and Annie at the Refill Station [books] and Pixie Jewels [plants and seeds].
- 7.3. Wendy Breach- updated the meeting on Active Travel Tynedale- formed by some members of Hexham Climate Action who incorporated themselves. Email on act.tynedale20@gmail.com
- 7.4. Discussion of website- is it an unnecessary cost? Jane Brampton is keen on a website as someone who doesn't engage much with social media. Discussions around the fact that you can still view public group on facebook without being a member. Decided the top would be reviewed at a later date, as Megan stated the website is all paid up until spring time.

- 7.5. Ariane brought up the need for a central register of green groups in Hexham and where that would sit. Hexham Courant magazine flagged as potential resource and the next Hex-Press.
- 7.6. Kevin Smith mentioned having started Plant Swap Bellingham as a Facebook group to complement Plant Swap Hexham and the Plant Swap events that TT holds in non covid years which have been a good source of funds in the past.
- 7.7. Stuart said the Directors to meet soon and establish the monthly members' meeting.

8. Close of formal AGM at 8.15pm

Minutes by Pixie Jewels