

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

Company number 08135495

Thursday 24 February 2022, 7.00pm,
Hexham Community Centre

Present

Stuart Page; Wendy Breach; Rosemary Theobalds; Matilda Bevan; Colin Gallagher; Lowri Potts; Megan Payne; Chris Payne; Ariane Baty; Jane Brantom (minutes); Ted Liddle; Elizabeth Leonard; James Swabey; Simin Cooper; Siobhan Stephenson; Carole Price; Janet Storrie; Pat Lynch; Lelsey Duke; Sue Roberts; Jane Torday; Robert Cooper; Holly Ramskin-Gardiner; James Ramskin-Gardiner; Penny Grennan; Sue Dunne

Apologies

Kevin Smith; Jane Kysow; Paul Homer; Anne Leuchars; Mark Shipperlee; Seán Mac Nialluis

MINUTES

1. Introduction and Welcome

Outline of AGM & welcome to all given by meeting Chair, acting Secretary and Director, Stuart Page.

- AGM delayed from the planned January date because of Covid. Delighted to see a good turn out, to be able to all meet for real and offer chance to chat afterwards over a drink and nibbles.

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 9 December 2020

Approved, subject to correction of spelling of Brantom in items 4 & 7, as a correct record. Moved by Elizabeth, seconded by Megan. Unanimously agreed by all.

There were no matters arising

3. Director's report

- Stuart gave an overall summary. A busy year despite the dark days of covid restrictions. New energy into TT from new directors & HS4N work; established projects going well; TT on-line talks, and Prudhoe Space for Nature started as new projects; membership levels held up. Meetings had continued through the year, gradually moving from zoom to 'real' meetings back at the Forum Cinema backed up by regular newsletters.

Hexham Space For Nature (HS4N) report- Ariane summarised

- HSFN getting well established thanks to overall leadership of Andy Lees and the relationships he has developed with NCC, HTC and others. The project has a regular newsletter, volunteers have been very active in sub projects summarized below.
- Current projects-
 - Hexham Swift Heaven – year one of this project. Around 50 new nest boxes have gone up, more research and surveys planned for 2022.
 - Hexham Hoedown – also year one. Successful initial year, many Hexham streets signed up to the 'DIY' pavement plant management and NCC agreed not to spray in these. Lessons learned and plan to continue for 2022. Wendy Breach leading.

- The Glade - another new project. Volunteers have been improving planting of pollinators and management of a neglected area of the Sele in agreement with NCC. Hexham Youth Initiative involved. Lesley Duke leading.
- Highford Park & Priestlands – wildflower and grassland management improvements have progressed
- Tree strategy – work is progressing on this strategy for Hexham. Huw Davies leading
- Sele & Abbey Grounds wildflower borders – more seeding and planting of wildflower plugs has been done by volunteers over the year. The woodland border is beginning to look well established and attracts much positive comment
- Cemetery – work has continued with HTC and there were signs this year of more wildflowers emerging in the new wildflower meadow opposite the cemetery.

Edible Hexham and Community Garden report– Jane B summarised

- Community Garden – continues to be well maintained by tireless efforts of Elizabeth, aided by Richard. Future of the garden remains uncertain, representations made to NCC to keep garden in situ. Autumn Rake and Cake event created interest and extra help from youngsters from Hexham Youth Initiative. Garden still very productive with produce going to Community Grocery and volunteers. More regular volunteers always welcome.
- Edible Hexham continues to bloom. Stalwart Rosemary, aided by Jane T and Elizabeth have maintained the planters around town. Jane B worked with them to create the Edible Hexham Trail, launched in September together with initial recipes from Jane T. More planned for launch in April 2022
- Recent success with NCC Community Chest funding for more reservoir planters to overcome watering difficulties. Success also with funding from Northern Rail for station planters – pollinators and edibles. Details to be finalized.

Prudhoe Space for Nature – Jane B summarized

- Jane K working with Prudhoe Town Council and Community Partnership on possible community orchard and pollinator planting. Small steps with steady progress.

Plant swap and apple pressing – Megan

- A welcome return for both events in the Farmers market. Both were well supported by volunteers and much appreciated by local people and visitors.
- Plans ongoing for plant / seed swap in May

TT talks – Ariane

- A new area of TT activity introduced in Winter 2021. One of the benefits of zoom. Talks were well attended by people throughout Tynedale. 2022 talks on Tyne Rivers Trust; Dark Skies and Swifts organized.

Orchards - Matilda Bevan

- Two existing orchards continuing to flourish at Acomb first school and at Enna café at Tyne Green.
- New orchard planted in Acomb on Karbon Homes land with trees funded by TT. Several local volunteers involved lending expertise and energy. Future plan is to establish wildflower meadow around the trees.

Energy – Ariane summarized

- Other, non TT groups such as Active Travel Tynedale, Humshaugh Net Zero and more are working more directly with this important area at the moment. TT

in close contact with HTC, will be attending Hexham Net Zero fair on 20 March and has contributed to the HTC input to the NCC Climate Action Plan. New ideas, volunteers to coordinate and deliver projects especially in this area, welcome.

Overall pleased to be able to report significant progress despite the covid restrictions on wide range of projects, including some outside Hexham. Big thanks were extended to all who have been putting time, inspiration and energy into achieving all this.

The Directors report was unanimously approved, moved by Elizabeth and seconded by Chris.

4. Financial report- Megan Payne

- Activity to end of July 2021
- 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. The Community Garden and Edible Hexham are now combined under the same budget heading
- General funds increased due to two factors. Firstly, a grant from HTC to replace lost income during the pandemic and secondly, membership fees and the number of members increasing.
- Restricted funds increased due to successful fundraising by HS4N during this period

Conclusion: financially stable, but projects might want to

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

Financial report unanimously accepted

5. 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.

5.1 Stuart , Ariane and Jane B all stood down as Directors.

5.2 All three were prepared to stand again as Directors. Stuart was proposed by Elizabeth, seconded by Ariane; Ariane proposed by Stuart and seconded by Megan; Jane B proposed by Rosemary and seconded by Ariane. All three were 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

5.3 Megan was re-elected unanimously as Treasurer

5.4 Stuart was re- elected unanimously as Secretary

6 Resolutions:

6.1 That members confirm the proposal to modify the wording of Article 3 of the Articles of Association, and specifically parts (a) and (b) of that Article, from

The objects of the Company shall be

To build resilience and sustainability into our local community by:

a) creating, supporting and encouraging local solutions to the global problems of peak oil, climate change and economic crisis;

b) raising awareness of the issues associated with the challenges of peak oil, climate change and economic crisis and the consequent need to

develop a low carbon, sustainable future through ethical, social, cultural, economic, environmental and community action;

To

To build resilience and sustainability into our local community by:

- a) creating, supporting and encouraging local solutions to the global problems of climate change and biodiversity emergencies;*
- b) raising awareness of the issues associated with the climate change and biodiversity emergencies and the need to develop a local low carbon, sustainable future through ethical, social, cultural, economic, environmental and community action;*

The remaining parts of that article to remain unchanged

- Motion proposed by Elizabeth, seconded by Wendy. Motion passed unanimously.

7 Members' proposed resolutions.

Nothing to report

8 Any other business.

7.1. Penny, representing HTC described the new Grow Hexham project to 'match gardeners with idle gardens'. The project recently secured funding from the North of the Tyne Mayor's Authority and is recruiting a project officer. HTC keen to explore opportunities for liaising with TT 'growing projects'. TT were involved in early project discussions. An opportunity of RHS sustainable community funding has just come up. Agreed to discuss possibilities after the formal meeting.

7.2. Ariane reminded all of the HTC Hexham net zero fair on 20 March.

7.3. Ted gave a brief cycling update

- Outlined early background work on potential new local routes.
- Cycling Minds – new organization for people and wellbeing through cycling starting in Hexham
- Rotary Way cycle path still going very slowly
- Importance of getting proposals into LCWIP (Local Cycleway Infrastructure Plans)

7.4. Jane B alerted all to Prudhoe Goes Green event 14 / 15 May

7.5. Elizabeth sought clarity on whether volunteers needed to be TT members to have the insurance cover. She has a potential group via the U3A. Stuart clarified that they did not have to be paid up members. Jane B ran through project protocol – description, risk assessment, full details are on the TT website under 'how we work'. Discussion ensued about recruiting and working with volunteers on the various projects under the TT umbrella, Lesley wants more for the Border and Glade and other projects also have need from time to time. Potential for greater collaboration between HS4N and other TT projects on this. Agreed to continue the discussion after the meeting.

9 Close of formal AGM at 8.15pm

Discussions and socializing continued