Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Greening Wingrove

20th April 2024

Present: Rachel Richman, Jo Ellis, Katy Sillem, Sean Nicholson, Jacqueline Scollen, Ben Page, Benni, Alistair Ford, Stuart Muir, Don Morrison, Natalie Rotterova, Charlie, John, Gail Forbes, Julie Ross

1. Consideration of accounts and balance sheet

The accounts were circulated. MC explained that the organisation started the year with a balance of just over £30K and finished the year with a balance of some £24K. The reason for the drop was that the North of Tyne funding received for the “Turbocharging the Bike Garden” project had been spent.

There are resources which need to be spent; ideas were invited as to how to spend them.

A grant which had been received from the HLF had been spent and a report had been made to the funder. Covid Recovery funding, which had also been received, was a straightforward grant, with no conditions attached. This did, however, need to be spent.

KS suggested that a future meeting could discuss priorities for expenditure.

KS proposed and DM seconded that the accounts be approved. This was agreed by those present with one abstention (Benni) and no objections.

1. Consideration of Director's and auditor's reports

This agenda item was subsumed within item 1.

1. Elections to replace retiring Directors

MC explained that the organisation could have as many Directors as it liked. Rachel Richman expressed an interest in becoming a Director. DM proposed and AF seconded that she be elected as such. This was approved by those present with no abstentions or objections.

1. Appointment and remuneration of the auditor (or their equivalent).

MC explained that our accountant had previously been employed by us at a cost of some £750 for preparing our accounts. This was approved by those present with no abstentions or objections.

1. Presentation by Gail Forbes, Communications and Engagement Officer, Newcastle City Council, on the Transforming Northumberland Street project/scheme

Gail Forbes gave a presentation on the above scheme. Members asked the following questions:

* Are local people going to be trained to work on the scheme? GF – yes
* Is the social and environmental worth of the project being maximised? - GF- this could be discussed with the site manager
* Is climate change adaptation being taken into consideration, with regard to things like flood management? GF – can look into this. The scheme itself was developed under a previous administration and has been revived. The priest at St Andrew’s is interested in creating a rain garden there.
* What is the current state of play regarding the pedestrianisation of Blackett Street? GF – no clear plans at present

1. Presentation from Julie Ross, Senior Nature Ranger, Natural History Society of Northumbria, on the Gosforth's Wild Web project

JR gave a presentation on the GWW project. This involves working to investigate and celebrate wildlife within the 100 square km with Gosforth Nature Reserve at the centre. It involves visits to schools, work with community groups, walks and pop-up events etc.

Data collection is a big part of it; volunteers are invited to submit any information in any form they like, including via the apps Inaturalist and Irecord. This is useful to help protect sensitive sites from development.

People are also invited to develop an “A to Z of Wildlife” in any form (books, crafts, etc)

JR provided some materials to go alongside the project – workbooks, stickers, free passes to GNR, etc.