

**GLENOGLE COURT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8pm on Tuesday 15th December 2020
THROUGH ZOOM**

Minutes – taken by Mor Kandlik Eltanani

Present

Jill Andrew (Chair, 7/3 Liddesdale), Sam Rennie (Treasurer, 5/2 Glenogle), Carol Fraser (Joint Secretary, 5/4 Ettrickdale), Patrick Honeybone (Joint Secretary, 7/5 Liddesdale), Mor Kandlik Eltanani (Joint Secretary, 4/6 Liddesdale), Joe Peach (GCRA Website, 5/5 Liddesdale), Michelle O'Toole (Committee Member, 9/2 Ettrickdale), Behnam Balali (1/2 Liddesdale), Doreen Boyle (7/4 Ettrickdale), Marilyn Brannan (3/5 Ettrickdale), Ysabel Collyer (4/1 Ettrickdale), James Gamgee (8/6 Ettrickdale), Heather Griffin (7/5 Glenogle), Rachel Hinds (7/1 Ettrickdale), Irena Loughton (6/1 Glenogle), Anne Lyden (5/6 Liddesdale), Allan McCafferty (2/3 Ettrickdale), Anne McCarthy (7/6 Ettrickdale), Jinti Mcnee (3/6 Ettrickdale), Jane Norie (8/5 Ettrickdale), Michael Sharp (10/2 Ettrickdale – proxy: Zoë Johnston), Carol Shaw (6/3 Glenogle), Sandra Smith (3/3 Liddesdale), Jackie Sutherland (7/6 Liddesdale), Geraldine Wooley (5/3 Glenogle), Deborah Waterson (4/5 Liddesdale – proxy: Patrick Honeybone), David (?)

27 members were present, so the AGM was quorate.

1. Welcome

Jill Andrew: good evening all and welcome to our zoom meeting, thank you for joining.

2. Apologies

We have no apologies but we have two proxy votes.

3. Minutes of AGM of 20 November 2019 (circulated by email)

The first order of business is to approve the minutes of the last AGM. No comments were offered so the minutes are approved.

4. Chair's report (Jill Andrew)

Thanks to the committee for their hard work, made even harder in this last year. The committee's time was given freely for the committee work and to tidy up the estate. The remit of the committee is only to look after the gardening of the estate – it does not have any remit in blocks. Thank you also to all the residents who have improved the estate's look with their gardening efforts. Thank you to Sam who has done tremendous work as a treasurer and is now stepping down after three years of outstanding effort.

We pulled together as a community facing covid, as well as now pulling together to fill in roles in the committee so we can avoid using a factor. Welcome to all new committee members.

We have also faced financial challenges this year – the financial system we have been using is now obsolete and we have to change it, which has caused a delay in invoices this year. This year chasing up unpaid accounts has become increasingly difficult, and the committee has decided to pass over files of unpaid accounts to debt collection after a number of reminders. It is not great for neighbours to do this role, and it is better to put this to an independent agency.

We haven't invited councillors to this meeting since it's on zoom, but we have been in close contact with them, and they have been helping with issues such as bins and a notice of details for flood presenting on the flood gate. The flood gate operated well last week.

There will be new faces in the committee going forward, and some are stepping down. I am stepping down as chair and wish us all a better 2021.

5. Joint secretary's report (Patrick Honeybone)

At the last AGM we decided to split the role to look after meetings (Patrick), after emails (Carol) after records of residents (Mor). We apologise for any delays in this work due to the challenges of this year.

In the minutes from last year you will see that potholes were meant to be filled, and gardening work was meant to be done – these were delayed due to covid.

We did, however, have a litter-pick, there was a bush that obstructed the view from Ettrickdale which was removed, and we organised the Covid help-group which was very positive, despite not many calls for help.

Carol: thank you to everyone who contributed to the help group, it will stay open for now as the crisis is still happening.

Jill: this was a neighbourly and good thing to do, in line with many communities.

6. Treasurer's Report (Sam Rennie) (accounts circulated by email)

The accounts were circulated by email and contain full information of the association's balance. Given that no objections were received the accounts are taken to have been approved by the meeting.

A bit of news - there was £1800 outstanding for the last couple of years, this is now down to £1400. I sent a final round of reminders in the last couple of weeks. Other than that, the account has been managed as usual and gardeners have been paid as normal.

I have sent around offers from factors – they were not very expensive, but these fees tend to be increased and become expensive. The possibility of a factor has been very unappealing to residents. However, it looks like we won't have to go along that path. I welcome the new treasurers who volunteered to fill this role.

Jill: thank you so much Sam for all the hard work you have done in difficult circumstances. It is never nice to have to chase others for money, and we hope others won't have to do this with the introduction of a debt collection agency.

7. Update on the website and FB group (Joe Peach)

I encourage all residents to use both of these channels of information and communication. The website has many commonly asked questions that can be answered in the constitution.

<https://www.glenoglecourt.com/>

I also encourage you to use the FB group – search “Glenogle Court Residence Association” on Facebook. Great place to be to keep up to date and join the conversation.

Jill: thank you Joe for this help and your help with the financial management as well.

8. Appointment of Committee

Jill: the next item on the agenda is voting to approve **new members of the committee**.

Carole: We have Rachel Hinds and Behnam Balali. If everyone is happy to approve the committee, we will have a committee meeting soon and divide roles between us and over the transition of roles.

Patrick: we would welcome anyone else who wants to volunteer. You could take part in the treasurer role, in the secretary role, or as a general committee member.

Carol: we now have the opportunity to have these roles shared, but additional volunteers would be very welcome.

Patrick: Doreen Boyle volunteered as well.

Jill: we also have a new chair as well up for vote, Michelle has volunteered to fill this role.

All roles were approved unanimously.

9. Items of Business

Jill: **Invoices for November will be issued in January** by our new financial portal. It should make things easier for rolling out invoices and make payment by card easier. We will accommodate those who want to use cheques, but we do prefer cards, especially now with covid.

Jill: Another item for vote is an **increase in the subscription**. We are proposing to increase the cost in the first time in 5 years from £100 to £110. This will help cover the costs of the new payments system as well as the debt collection. We are hoping that a debt collection company would be able to cover its own fees, but we are not sure yet. We have to be mindful of potential payments we would have to make for gardening, including the river bank.

The vote to increase the subscription to £110 was accepted with 26 in favour and 1 against.

Jill: we also wanted to discuss **appointing a factor**. We are now in a position to avoid this as we have new volunteers for the treasurer’s role. We want to stress our remit is only for the gardening, and not for footpaths up to flats (with slabs) or for individual stairs. If we do want to go to a factor this again would be with the same remit.

Patrick: would anyone like to comment on this?

Ysabel 4/1 Ettrickdale: Could I please be sent the quotes again? Sam will send these.

Jill: a comment by a resident in the chat expressed they are worried about rising fees with a factor. I support this as a factor could be problematic, and I believe the committee as it works harder and it does not charge fees.

Patrick: I also share the worry of costs, as once we appoint a factor we won’t be able to go back. Our payment is very low compared to any potential factor.

Jill: another comment in the chat expressed they are disappointed by factors in other developments.

Jill: we can therefore continue as we are without a factor for another year. If anyone wants to bring up other opinions do feel free to email the secretary email.

Jill: the next item to discuss is the **gardening**. It hasn't been as regular due to covid. I do want to thank Michelle and Carol for working with the gardeners to point out what we would like to be changed. This is ongoing and Michelle and Carol will follow this up as covid restrictions ease.

A comment from the chat said turfing work has commenced today. Work to replace disused flowerbeds and shrubs has been happening as well. We would appreciate other comments you might have to the secretary email. We benefit from the knowledge and experience of many of our residents who are avid gardeners

10. Any Other Business

Jill: AOB - are there any other comments?

James Gamgee (8/6 Ettrickdale): I would like to thank the committee, particularly Sam for her extensive work. It was great to see the community support and I would like to express my gratitude.

Jill: thank you James for your involvement as well.

Marilyn Brannan (3/5 Ettrickdale): I am new here but I have felt very welcome. If anyone has a plot outside their window they would like a shrub in please contact me, I would be happy to help.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Jill: **the next meeting** - all being well, we plan to have the next AGM next November.

If all things are well, we might try to organise a residents association BBQ on the river bank in August.

Thank you all for joining us tonight.