 **TRUSTEE’S MEETING**

**10.00 a.m. on Monday 19th April 2021**

**via ZOOM**

**M I N U T E S**

**1. Present:** Barbara Williams (Chair), Caroline James, Helen Harran, Stuart Lowerson, Peter Shields, Mo Forster (Minutes).

**2. Apologies:** Received from Helen Parker prior to the meeting.

**3. Did not attend:** Nick Worboys, Sue Welch.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 22nd March 2021:** These were agreed as a true record.

**5. Reason for holding the meeting digitally:** The decision was taken to hold the meeting digitally due to the current coronavirus pandemic and the social distancing regulations.

**6. Hill 60 project:** Peter Shields, Ecologist for Gateshead Council, joined the meeting. Peter was invited to share his vision on the future of Hill 60; he was warmly welcomed. The following were some of the main points made throughout the discussion:

* The vast majority of Hill 60 is owned by Storey Homes but it is to be transferred to the Council for long-term management. There was a requirement for the developer to carry out infrastructure works prior to transfer; however, due to the length of time this is taking, the work will now be undertaken by Gateshead Council working with Durham Wildlife Trust. The cost for this work will be recharged to the developer.
* Durham Wild Life Trust will maintain Hill 60 on behalf of Gateshead Council and they will look to engage with schools and local communities.
* Hill 60 used to be maintained by horse grazing but this was stopped due to the housing development. The grazing used to be over long periods over the spring and summer. When this is reinstated, it will be low intensity, short term and seasonal. Horses will not graze in the flowering season which will improve Hill 60 botanically.
* The corral is there, it only takes up a small proportion of the site, it is a safe means of loading and unloading horses.
* The focus is on long term opportunities, ultimately to designate the site as a local nature reserve and afford it some legal protection.
* There is no intention of turning this into a formal park. It will be an area of natural green space to be used for walking, dog walking, sledging which are all legitimate uses and they will continue.
* There is a lot of social heritage associated with this site and there is a want to share this with people through mediums such as interpretation board, smart phones and leaflets.
* Helen has a lot of photographs which she can provide to contribute to these mediums.
* Caroline is to provide Peter with a link to individuals who can shed light on the history of the site. **CJ to action.**
* Funds have been secured for capital items on site and to cover the cost of maintenance. Although no funds are available, at present, for interpretation boards but there are funds to be tapped into.
* Concerns were expressed about access to the site and these concerns were discussed.

**7. Matters arising (which are not on the main agenda):**

**1) Munki Computer Help. HP to update.** Deferred until the next meeting.

**2) John Holmes’ Requirements: BW to update.** Deferred until the next meeting.

**3) CCTV for Fly tipping at Woodside Lane. HH to update.** Deferred until the next meeting.

**4) Update on the wording of The Constitution.** Deferred until the next meeting.

**5) Invitation to Sophie to join the board of trustees. SL to update.** Deferred until the next meeting.

**8. Finance Report:** The Treasurer, Caroline James, gave the following update:

£1,488.94 received from Co-op Community Fund.

£3,000.00 received from Gateshead Council to pay for the feasibility study for Crawcrook Park.

£275.00 raised from the sale of the Easter Eggs.

£230.00 raised from the collection boxes.

**9. Calendar of Events - Items listed for April:**

**1) Tyne Valley Express.** Our entry was submitted digitally on 15th April 2021 and it will be used for each subsequent edition until we decide to amend/change it.

**2) Small Fair in August.** Deferred until the next meeting.

**10. Crawcrook Park:** This agenda item has been deferred until the next meeting.

**1) Update on Masterplan**:

**2)** **Update on the Business Plan:**

**11. Fundraising ideas:**

**1) Capt. Tom’s daughter’s fundraising event – Theme “100”.** It was agreed we would not join in with this event.

**2) Christmas themed knitting project.** Judy has patterns for small Christmas Puddings. It was suggested we approach local businesses and ask if they would donate boxes of Ferrero Rocher, each chocolate can be individually inserted into a Christmas Pudding and be sold. Also being knitted are angels and snowmen.

**3) Bird boxes .** A post has been placed on FB asking for volunteers who feel they are able to make these boxes which we can then sell.

It was suggested we form a “fundraising sub-group”. The main focus of this group will be to generate fundraising ideas and to complete funding applications. Mo to send an email to all members asking if anyone would be interested in joining this group. **MF to action.**

**12. Land of Oak and Iron - Update:** Interpretation board was agreed and it is now complete.

**13. Edible bed project:** At this pointthere is nothing further to report, however, it is still being pursued.

**14. Gateshead Climate Alliance:** It was agreed Barbara would replace Caroline as the representative for Our Villages.

**15. Safeguarding Policy:** Everyone agreed Caroline has done a great job in producing this for Our Villages.

**16. LEAF fund – Storage boxes:** It was agreed we should apply for litter bins, poo equipment, litter picking equipment and possibly a couple of storage boxes.

**17. Criminal damage reports:** The flower box from outside Morello Hairdressing Salon has been stolen. Stuart will log this on the Northumbria Police website. **SL to action.**

**18. Poo Campaign:**

**1) Update of signs.** Caroline has a broken one at home, Mo to ask John if he could fix it. **MF to action.** Caroline has produced A3 signage which has been laminated. It was agreed, if we are using signs which are pushed into the ground then they need to be sited safely so they do not become a hazard.

**2) Bags at entrances to the Quarry gates:** This was noted.

**19. PayPal charity account:** This is ongoing and is to be discussed further at a later date.

**20. Community Renewal Fund:** More information is needed, to be discussed at a later date.

**21. Facebook Page Language:** It was agreed that language used on anything we post on Our Villages FB page must be appropriate and not contain any improper or bad language.

**22. A.O.B.:**

* Stuart reported he is having difficulty obtaining black bags, from Gateshead Council, for litter picking waste. Helen H said she would take this forward. **HH to action.**
* Stuart has asked for a litter picking hoop for a new volunteer. Caroline agreed to give Stuart hers until the new stock arrives. **CJ/SL to action.**
* Stuart informed the group that it was he who physically carried bags of litter picking waste from the cut by the allotment to the compound. Michael, from the Council, came later and gave Stuart a helping hand.

**23. Date and time of next meeting:** Monday 17th May 2021 at 10.00 a.m. in Crawcrook Park.