



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17th July 2024
at Crawcrook Pavilion
Crawcrook Park
7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Chair's opening remarks:** Chris Beer welcomed everyone to the AGM of Our Villages Crawcrook and Greenside.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Kathryn Henderson, Matthew Broderick, Barbara Williams.
3. **Presentation of Annual Report (Chair):** Chris Beer presented the report verbally explaining the various events and projects ongoing and in the future.
 - Gardening – Gardening Angels continuing with their gardening activities around Crawcrook. Volunteers welcome and if interested get in touch via ourvillagescag@gmail.com.
 - Litter Picking – Stuart Lowerson, litter picker lead and trustee has now retired. Three further pickers unable to continue so volunteers are welcome and if interested get in touch via ourvillagescag@gmail.com.
 - Graffiti wall – We made the West wall of the pavilion a public graffiti wall giving young people and adults a space where they could do their art as long as it adhered to the guidelines to be respectful and non-offensive.
 - Community Garden – The four raised beds are being managed by Emmaville Primary School, St. Agnes Primary School, Willows Nursery Crawcrook and The Sen Support Space. Winter 2023/24 young hedge plants were planted in the garden and we are grateful to the Woodland Trust for their kind donation.
 - Crawcrook Pavilion – Our Villages took on a 35 year lease from April 2023 from Gateshead Council which covers the pavilion, paved space in front of the pavilion and the bowling green. The first year of the lease we concentrated on refurbishing the pavilion and paved area. The next stage for the pavilion will be toilet improvements and kitchen improvements. With respect to the Bowling green a planning application was submitted in July 2024 to add a storage unit to the side of the green, picnic benches and a wildflower area and nature zone. The existing flower beds and borders will be enriched with new planting, flowers and hedging. We will receive young hedge plants from the

Woodland Trust November 2024 and will arrange a volunteer session to plant the young hedge plants in due course.

- Events - Crawcrook Fair for 2024 will be held on Saturday 14th September 2024 between 11am – 4pm. Money raised will go towards the annual Christmas lights in the village. Further events discussed were the Book Club, Water Safety Day, First Aid Training for young people, British Cross resilience tips for stress for young people, craft mornings, possible boot camp on Bowling Green. Christmas events will be discussed in due course.

4. **Adoption of Annual Report:** This was verbally adopted.
5. **Presentation of Accounts (Treasurer):** Laura Clark, Treasurer, presented the accounts verbally. Funding has been acquired from Community Interest Levi (CIL) which is a funding pot administered by the community foundation, National Lottery, Barbour Foundation, and Co-op. Funding has gone towards, paving, benches, café counter, windows, flooring, the bowling green flower beds and a storage area. The café has covered its own cost. Funds are needed for Bowling Green. The funds from Barbour went towards the garden. Funds from the Co-op from 2022/23 community fund will be spent by the end of September 2024. We have also put in an application for the Co-op community fund 2024/25 cycle and are waiting to hear if we are successful. This application will be to cover toilet improvements in the Pavilion. Planning for a wild flower area is in progress.
6. **Adoption of Accounts:** The accounts were formally adopted.
7. **Appointment of Auditors – Connected Voices Business Services Newcastle:** Accounts have been reviewed and audited.
8. **Election of officers:** Kathryn Henderson has stepped down as Vice Chair. This position now needs to be filled. Linda Chappell has taken over position as Secretary and Trustee.
9. **Motions to be put to the AGM (to be received in advance of the meeting):** None received.
10. **Presentation by Durham Wildlife Trust:** Andy Wadds the reserve Manager spoke about various works of the trust including the 90% decline in meadows where Laura proposed that the Pavilion could be used to display leaflets being offered to inform locals of where the meadows are, the 53 nature reserves, wax cap mushrooms, how they have around 1300 hectares of land with the goal of reaching 2000 hectares. Chris asked if the trust could take over the 2-pond land on Sled Lane. Andy to make enquiries. Suggestions were put forward for guided walks on occasional Saturdays with maps of the walks shown on website. It was also suggested to offer half-term Halloween walks for children. Andy to send Chris an email showing upcoming events. Current DWT events including guided walks are posted on their website. <https://www.durhamwt.com> They are also on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

11. **Any other business:** None
12. **Closing remarks:** The Chair thanked everyone for attending.