

# THE GARDENERS REST COMMUNITY SOCIETY LTD



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
26 March 2022  
At the Gardeners Rest

## PRESENT

Andrew Crowther  
Andrew Dawson  
Andrew Stringfellow  
Andrew Thorpe  
Andy Chaplin  
Anil Ganesh  
Barry Wheatley  
Bill Allerton  
Bryony Doran  
Christopher Ness  
David Hattersley

Diane Parker  
Dominic Ridler  
Eleanor Stillman  
Gerald Gordon  
James Stillman  
Janet Ridler  
Janet Smith  
Jennifer Walsh  
John Chapman  
John Stannard  
Kirsteen Booy

Lawrence Whyte  
Mark Beckles Willson  
Michael Parker  
Mick Nott  
Richard Brown  
Richard Emery  
Rosalind Stillman  
Ruby Kempka  
Sam Gregory  
Tim Stillman  
Tim Swetnam

## APOLOGIES

Anne Gilder  
Barry Calder  
David Eyre  
Jan Brears  
Jill Grinstead

John Ashworth  
John Bell  
Josette Knowles  
Nigel Williams  
Paul Brears

Paul Pigott  
Paul Truin  
Steve Ruffle  
Susie Cason  
Tony Clabby

## PRE MEETING NOTE

**The Chair explained that, under the Plunkett Foundations Model Rules for Community Ownership which are effectively the constitution of the Gardeners Rest, a quorum of 10% of the membership, ie 40 members, had to be present for the AGM to proceed in its usual form. The meeting voted *nem con* to suspend this rule temporarily to allow the AGM to proceed. Any decisions made and resolutions made would be subject to subsequent approval by a further meeting.**

### 1 MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING(S)

- 1.1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 31 March 2021 and the AGM ratification meeting of 4 October 2021 were agreed as true records.

### 2 PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Andy Chaplin presented the annual accounts which have been agreed with the Society's Independent Examiner, subject to a final calculation of Corporation Tax.

The meeting agreed *nem con* that these should be adopted.

### 3 CHAIR'S REPORT

*As I predicted, the last financial year wasn't much easier than the one before it.*

*On 14 October 2020, two weeks into our financial year, the second lockdown started and we had to close again and could only offer a takeaway service on a pre-booked basis. Further*

*restrictions were introduced after Christmas which meant that we were restricted to delivering beer to members and regulars once a month.*

*We reopened on a very limited scale outdoors at weekends in April and we were allowed to reopen indoors six weeks later.*

*In September last year we reintroduced live music and in October we restarted our work experience and training programme in partnership with Freeman College. Since then we have had two students working regularly with Tim and a third will be joining us later in the year.*

*Christmas was disappointingly quiet, perhaps understandably as Omicron was pushing Covid cases up again, but business has picked up noticeably over the last few weeks and we are cautiously optimistic about the immediate future.*

*One of the few benefits of the pandemic was that it gave us the opportunity to replace our ageing roof. There was considerable financial support available for community owned businesses like ours and we managed to secure a significant grant from Power to Change to fund two thirds of the cost of this operation.*

*Flood risk remains a worry. We had another close escape quite recently but at least our additional pumps performed well and prevented any build-up of water in the cellar.*

*I need to talk about the way the pub has been run over the last few years. You all probably know how much Andy Crowther has done to improve and maintain our slightly ramshackle building over the last four years. You may not be quite so aware how much time Andy Chaplin and Jan Brears have put in on the bookkeeping, accounting and HR side of things. We owe them both a considerable debt of gratitude.*

*In simple terms, they have done more than we could have asked of volunteers in the position and we need some more of our shareholders to join us to share the work around more. If this doesn't happen, we shall have to consider changing the way we run the pub quite significantly.*

*I don't want to end on a gloomy note though. We have a pub which has weathered Covid pretty successfully and is rapidly returning to its former vibrancy. Whatever the challenges ahead of us, we really do have something to celebrate..*

#### 4 ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

Andy Chaplin, Janet Ridler, Jil Deeley-Noades and Ian Sewerin have served on the Board for three years and so are required to stand down. Janet and Ian are willing to stand for re-election.

The meeting approved Janet and Ian's re-appointment to the Board *nem con*.

Dominic Ridler has applied to join the Board.

The meeting approved Dominic's appointment to the Board *nem con*.

#### 5 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

The Board proposed the re-appointment of CJ Woodhead as the Independent Examiner for the current financial year.

The meeting approved this proposal *nem con*.

#### 6 SHARE INTEREST RATE FOR 2020-2021

In the light of the pub's financial performance, the Board recommended interest for this period should be paid to members at a rate of 0.75% for all investments, as allowed for in the accounts.

The meeting approved this proposal *nem con*.

## 7 QUESTIONS

### 7.1 Cash payments

Andrew Thorpe asked when the card only payment restriction was going to be lifted.

The Chair confirmed that the issue has been discussed on a number of occasions by the Board but there are no plans to start accepting cash payments in the foreseeable future. The main reasons for this are:-

- having cash on the premises and then transporting it to and from the bank presents a number of security issues.
- there has been no difficulty with the majority of customers who seem happy with card or phone payments.
- it is expensive to handle cash - cashing up and setting up the till takes at least 30 minutes a day, bank charges are 70p for every £100 of notes in and coin out of the bank and it takes a couple of hours a week to go to the bank. In all it is about £4,000 to £5,000 a year.

A show hands indicated that seven of the 33 members present would like the pub to take cash payments.

The Board will keep the issue under review.

## 8 FURTHER MEETING

The Board will consider arrangements for a follow up meeting and notify shareholders in due course.

Mark Beckles Willson  
26 March 2022