

THE GARDENERS REST COMMUNITY SOCIETY LTD



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
31 March 2021
Online, via Zoom

PRESENT

Andy Chaplin
Andy Crowther
Anil Ganesh
David Eyre
David Fletcher
Dominic Rice
Dominic Ridler
Eleanor Stillman
Ian Sewerin
Jan Crowther

Janet Brears
Janet Ridler
Janet Smith
Jil Deeley-Noades
John Ashworth
John Scholey
John Stannard
Josette Knowles
Kirsteen Booy
Mark Beckles Willson

Michael Swinden
Paul Truin
Peter Bradbury
Richard Emery
Rosalind Stillman
Simon Geller
Susie Casson
Tim Stillman
Trevor Bailey
Will Larter

APOLOGIES

John Ashworth

John Emery

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 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING(S)

- 1.1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14 March 2020 and the AGM ratification meeting of 5 August 2020 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

It hasn't been an easy year.....

At the AGM in March last year, probably foolishly, I told you that for the the first five months of the financial year we had the business running fairly smoothly. Less than a week later, we had to close the pub because of Covid-19 restrictions.

I'll give you a brief reminder of what we have done since then.

In April we started a takeaway business, initially just to clear the cellar of cask beer which has a relatively short shelf life. This was popular enough for us to carry on with it until we were allowed to open again in early July.

In order to reopen we carried out risk assessments, retrained the staff and completely changed the way we operated. I was quite proud of the way we and the staff managed this and made the Gardeners somewhere I was still comfortable visiting. I should like to thank everyone involved for the hard work which make this possible.

On 14 October the second lockdown started based on a tiered system of restrictions. Sheffield was in tier 3 which meant that we had to close again and could only offer a takeaway service on a pre-booked basis. We set up and ran a simple click and collect system which we operated until the new lockdown which came into force after Christmas. Since then we have delivered beer to members and regulars once a month or so, selling three casks, around 200 pints each time.

Throughout we have tried to do something rather than going into hibernation.

Hope is on the horizon though. We shall be reopening, albeit on a very limited scale outdoors at weekends from 16 April. All being well, we shall be able to reopen indoors six weeks later.

I'm not sure that the next year is going to be much easier than the last one but what we are doing has become even more important. We have lost some good pubs in the last year. Close to home, the Hillsborough Hotel is no more, for instance. On a national scale, Greene King has announced that it is not planning to reopen half of its 2,700 pubs. I suspect that the number of small breweries will also shrink dramatically.

All I can tell you is that we shall continue to work hard to keep the pub operating in whatever form we are allowed. At the end of the day it is all our pub I am determined that it will still be here and still be viable when we are finally able to return it to the vibrant place it was just over a year ago.

4 ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

Andy Crowther, Jan Brears and Mark Beckles Willson have served on the Board for three years and so are required to stand down. All three are willing to stand for re-election and no new applications have been received

The meeting approved Andy, Jan and Mark's re-appointment to the Board *nem con*.

5 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

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 2019-2020

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 1% for all investments, as allowed for in the accounts.

The meeting approved this proposal *nem con*.

7 FURTHER MEETING

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