



**Gib Hill Guardians Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 9th April 2026
Colne Town Hall Council Chamber**

The meeting was live screened on YouTube.

Attendees: Chris McKee (PBC Green Spaces Assistant), Sarah Cockburn-Price (Schools Liaison), Andrew Ashworth (Treasurer), Will Stephenson (Chair), David Foat (Secretary), Alison Plackett, Karen Howarth (Primet Primary), Michael Fairless, Gina Langley, Julie Sutcliffe.

1. Apologies for absence: Phil Riley (PBC Green Spaces Manager), Mark Chung, Paul Dugdale, Marie Stone, Patricia Hannah-Wood.
2. Minutes of last AGM 15th January 2025: **Accepted *nem con*.**
3. Matters arising from the last AGM minutes: none.
4. Minutes of last Trustees' Management Committee Meeting 7th October 2025: **Accepted *nem con*.**
5. Matters arising from the last Trustees' Management Committee Meeting minutes:
 - 5.1 Re: 10. John Lamb is reducing his workload as he nears retirement.
 - 5.2 Re: 11. A site meeting with the Headmaster of Fisher More RC School, Paul Dugdale, took place 11th February 2026.
6. Work since last AGM:
 - 6.1 Three field access entrances were completed in the Autumn to a good standard
 - 6.2 Small entrance signs with QR code are ready to be installed
 - 6.3 Tree planting took place 23rd February 2025 to existing hedgerows and 21st March 2026 to hedgerow along the boundary with FM RC School.
7. Funding Bids.
 - 7.1 WS reported that a bid for funding from Colne TC has been successful and one is pending with Nelson TC. **The meeting thanked WS *nem con*.**
 - 7.2 DF reported that a Common Ground Fund application had been rejected. The Rewilding Innovation Fund requires a site of at least 40 hectares, so if the old golf course becomes an extension to GHLNR then that criteria may be met.
 - 7.3 SCP reported that Pendle Council has chosen Gib Hill to be the target of any Biological Net Gain credits from greenfield housing developments elsewhere. **The meeting agreed to co-operate with this *nem con*.**
8. Finances. **AA's accounts were accepted with thanks *nem con*.**

9. Annual Return to the Charity Commission. This has been done. **The meeting thanked WS & AA *nem con*.**

10. Schools Liaison:

10.1 SC-P reported that the Primet Year 9 day had been cancelled due to poor weather, but hoped to revive it this year.

10.2 Pendle Community College students are carrying out regular litter picks round the Reserve.

10.3 FM RC School is planning to utilise its field across Brierfield Ave Lane for a Rewild Yourself Miyawaki woodland, with associated field study facility. Pupils are also regularly litterpicking on the Reserve and using it for cross country running. There is further scope for fieldwork at Gib Hill to be embedded within the Geography curriculum. Currently the Forest School Group travels to Salford each week. **The meeting welcomed this development and agreed that pupils would be welcome to use GHLNR for their studies too.** Improving the existing access footpath from Briercliffe Ave Lane to GHLNR over FM RC School land was agreed to at the site meeting on 11th February 2026, amongst other things.

11. Social Media. This is all working well, but would be further improved with more images from the various school groups using the site. SC-P offered to chase the various institutions for photographs. **The meeting agreed to post a prominent note about the need for suitable footwear to cope with muddy conditions pending footpath improvements.**

12. Next Steps:

12.1 We have asked Pendle Council to include GHLNR in their Public Space Protection Orders.

12.2 **The meeting agreed improving paths a priority, and the Trustees' Management Committee was asked to look at this.** SC-P said there is a scheme for footpath maintenance where Parish and Town Councils contribute to a Pendle Council/Lancashire County Council fund and then often obtain much more in return. Colne Town Council pays an annual subscription, but it was uncertain as to whether Nelson Town Council does.

12.3 The Management Plan, including a habitat action plan, is due to be updated next year in line with current National Policy Planning Guidance. **The meeting agreed to get tenders from professionals to survey Gib Hill and update the Management Plan. It was noted that John Lamb with his wealth of previous data, is best positioned to carry out this work, if he is amenable to it.**

12.4 Forthcoming local government reorganisation. GL reported that no progress had been made transferring any LNR from Pendle Council to Colne TC and, as a result, ownership could pass to the new unitary authority in due course. **The meeting agreed to cooperate with whatever transpires *nem con*.**

13. AOB. SC-P moved a vote of thanks to DF for his work removing redundant fencing. **Agreed *nem con*.** DF said this work would continue.

14. Date of next meeting. **It was agreed that next year's AGM would be held in Nelson Town Hall in a suitable room at a time TBA.**

David Foat, 10th April 2026