

Minutes of Carlops Village Centre AGM
8pm, Friday 3rd June 2022
(in person and on Zoom)

1. Present

Trustees:

Hannah Walters, Patsy Campbell.

Committee:

Jean Arulanantham, Murray Campbell, Mairi Nye, Peter Raine.

Voting and associate Members:

David Arulanantham, Catriona Delves, Stuart Delves, May Jeffrey, Rae Montgomery, Kate Morss, Wendy Raine, Matthew Shaw, Monica Shaw, Guy Walters, Hazel White, Anna Woolverton, Peter Woolverton, Heather Yang.

2. Apologies:

Les Morss, Tim Wilcock

3. Minutes of previous AGM:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 12th May 2021 on were approved (proposed Patsy Campbell, seconded Guy Walters).

4. Matters arising from the Minutes:

It was noted that new ventilators had been installed in the Hall and were functioning well. Ventilation grilles had also been inserted in the external fire doors.

5. Chair's report:

[Attached]

6. Treasurer's report:

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Financial Report was given by Hannah Walters. Carlops Village Hall is in a strong financial position, thanks to the award of Covid-related grants. Advisors at the Bridge were very helpful during the period when the Hall was unable to function normally, as were the insurers. The rental income for 2021 was £1112, a substantial drop compared to pre-Covid years. Total expenditure for 2021 was £3734, and total income including grant support was £11940. The closing balance at the end of 2021 was £33,723, compared with £25,517 at the end of 2020. Tim Wilcock was thanked for his excellent work as Treasurer.

7. Progress on SCIO:

The establishment of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to take over the management of Carlops Village Hall is now at its final stage. Jean Arulanantham summarised the history of the Trust in which the current ownership of the Hall is vested. The oldest surviving trust deed, from the time in which the first building was constructed, is dated 1933. A more formal Deed of Trust was registered in 1958. By 1959 the Chairman, Secretary, and President were identified as ex officio trustees. Jean reported that it had been necessary to establish continuity of ownership of the hall building during the intervening years using minutes of past meetings and syllabuses recording the names of officebearers. It was agreed that a paper record of this work should be archived. Jean expressed gratitude to Sophie Taylor for her expert assistance in dealing with the Land Registry. Quotations were now being sought for conveyancing of the Hall building to the new SCIO; Peeblesshire Federation of Village Halls will pay the conveyancing cost up to a maximum of £2000.

8. Election of new committee:

Re-election of the existing Committee en bloc was proposed by Monica Shaw, seconded by Heather Yang, and agreed unanimously.

9. Suggestions for further Hall activities:

Guy Walters suggested that the installation of a coffee machine in the Hall could encourage the use of the hall for social functions. Activities such as a pop-up pub and a bi-monthly BYOB gathering were also discussed.

10. Next AGM:

It was noted that the next Annual General Meeting would be under the auspices of the new SCIO, which would decide on and publicise the date.

Carlops Village Centre AGM 3.6.2022 – Chair's Report

I am pleased to be able to report that Carlops Village Centre has seen a great deal more activity this year than in the previous one, and it really does feel as though we're returning to something like business as usual.

For a while it looked as though our 'fresh start' – cleaning, airing and repainting – was going to come to nothing as new restrictions and general anxiety about mixing indoors kept people away. Gradually, though, some of our previous regulars returned and we gained a new twice weekly hire with the Pilates class. Summer and autumn saw a dance camp, teaching workshops and music rehearsals. The winter lockdown put the brakes on a few planned activities – though Carlops did manage a responsibly distanced Hogmanay around the bonfire in the field in place of the usual ceilidh, and the Two Moronnies and friends provided their excellent annual New Year entertainment on the patio. The Bowlers completed their interrupted 20/21 season, but decided to postpone their full return until next season.

As restrictions eased, The Pentland Film Society made a welcome return and were finally able to put the new projector through its paces, and the hall played host to a much-postponed wedding. Unfortunately, the Burns' Supper was again a 'virtual' event, this time in conjunction with West Linton, but we very much hope that we will be doing the real thing next January. The Rural Products Show was cancelled for the second year running, and is also scheduled for revival this summer.

More recently we had an evening with the West Linton Beekeepers, who gave a talk about the new hives in the Rock Field, and we have started to return to live-hybrid meetings of the hall committee and community council. It has become so easy to meet online that I think we had forgotten what a pleasure it is to be in the same room with people. The Carlops Jazz Band, Edinburgh Renaissance Band and Linton Singers have led the way and we even saw a return of the Serpentarium last week.

Last month brought a new venture, Community Banquets, to the village, with some excellent catering. It was quite a small gathering, but a very enjoyable evening and all concerned, diners and caterers, are keen to do it again before long. With the closure of the Allan Ramsay it would be good to have regular social events in the hall – all suggestions welcome - and with that in mind, it is time to get the Yellow Card up and running again. For those who have moved

here since 2019, the Yellow Card is a programme of village events and contains contact details of groups and committee members. We already have a few CVC or collaborative events pencilled in; on Fathers' day (19th June) we hope to have a return of the sports day and dog show, the Rural Products Show will be in late August and on 9th September we have a concert by Gness, a Glasgow based folk band. Community Banquets are hoping to come back in September, and this time we have longer to find a date that suits more people.

We are still taking some Covid precautions and have fitted vents in the doors and replaced the noisy old extractor fans with quieter new ones. Enhanced cleaning and hand sanitising will be ongoing for a while, as will fogging when we have close bookings. We still intend to upgrade the heating and lighting at some point, but in the meantime Tim and Les have replaced the failed bulbs to banish the gloom.

As most of you will know, the Hall has almost completed the transfer from charitable trust to functioning SCIO. In addition to limiting the personal liability of Trustees, it also means that, as a legal entity, the Hall can rent or buy property and act as umbrella body. We would like to thank those who came to the EGM in March and the dedicated team have made further progress since then. After much frustration and repeated submissions of information Tim finally found a bank that would open an account for us, and Jean has been working towards the transfer of assets. Both will give more detailed updates in their following reports, I cannot thank them, and Monica, enough for the huge amount of work they have put into this. One of the conditions of the SCIO is that we maintain a proper register of members and we will be asking for your permission to hold your details in due course. It has been an unusually time-consuming period in the history of the Hall and with vacancies on the committee this has fallen harder on those who remain. If anyone feels able to help spread the tasks, in what should soon be a quieter period, we would be very happy to welcome you aboard.

It just remains to thank you all for coming and to give the annual reminder that this is your hall, so please use it! It's not just for parties and events, it's space to let off steam when the family is going stir crazy in a long wet spell – come and play table tennis or badminton – it's somewhere to watch a film or play a game on the big screen, room to layout a project or to exercise, somewhere quiet to work, run a workshop or just craft with friends, rehearse or practice an instrument. It is your resource, just get in touch.