

Report on progress of transfer of assets from Carlops Village Hall (charity number SC006176) to Carlops Village Centre SCIO (charity number SC051083).

Jean Ritchie, 9th June 2023.

In 2021 the village of Carlops created a new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Carlops Village Centre SCIO (charity number SC051083), with the intention that the SCIO would take over ownership and operation of Carlops Village Hall. The Village Hall is currently run by a Trust which was set up in 1958. The SCIO is a new legal structure which is widely agreed to be the best way forward for charities such as ours. In May 2022 we obtained permission from the Office of the Scottish Charities Regular (OSCR) to transfer the assets of Carlops Village Hall into the ownership of Carlops Village Centre SCIO.

In order for the SCIO to take over, we needed to carry out a legal conveyance of the assets of the village hall charity into the ownership of the new SCIO.

During the summer of 2022 I obtained quotes from solicitors firms. I approached 3 firms, a large one, a small one, a medium sized one. This took some time because while the large one replied almost straight away, the small companies took 6 weeks or so to get back to me.

In July I was advised by the Peebles Federation of Village Halls that we would be eligible for grant aid for solicitors fees. In response to our first application, PFVH suggested we approach a Peebles firm. I did this, and with a quote from them was successful in obtaining £1200 help towards solicitors fees. In the event, this firm let us know in January they could not handle the work, and we finally appointed Thorntons Solicitors to act for us.

Thorntons have been excellent. We are now at the stage of preparing documents to go to the Land Registry, including a map of the boundaries of the Village Hall land. Predictably, this is not straightforward. Thorntons are working on this and once the map is agreed, the conveyance should be speedy.

The assets of the village hall are agreed to be the land, the hall building, and the contents of the hall. When these have been transferred into the ownership of the SCIO, we will be able to wind up the Village Hall Trust.

We hope be able to wind up the Village Hall Trust before Autumn 2023. We will want to hold a final meeting of the Village Hall charity to mark the occasion, because winding it down will be a milestone in Carlops history.