

ATHELSTANEFORD VILLAGE HALL A.G.M. 2022

Tuesday 25th January 2022 7.00 p.m.

Present: Alice Beveridge [AB], Emily Armatage, Janette Barrie, Heather Doig [HD], Irene Pow [IP], Stephanie Duncan, Malcolm Duncan, Caroline Glas [CG], Harald Vox [HV], Sheila Williamson, Lorna Mortis, Alan Craig, NoraH Craig, Tara Moffat, Christine Turner, Dorothy Reilly, Russell Calder[RC], Jamie Butterworth [JB], Peter Allan [PA], Johanna Allan, Rod Mair, Helen Napier, Jimmy Burns, Suzanne Burns, Pat Robinson, Malcolm Vickers [MV], James Logan [JL], Stewart Brown, Di Simcock, Krystyna Campbell minutes. [KC]

Apologies: Cynthia Hay

1. James Logan agreed to chair the meeting. He welcomed All, a good turnout. Last year's meeting had not been held due to the pandemic. He welcomed especially, Stewart Brown Headmaster, Athelstaneford School.
2. Minutes of AGM held **28 January 2020**. No matters arose, that were not covered in the following. RC proposed the minutes.

AVH Constitution - JB gave an update on the intention to update the Village Hall Constitution. This is needed as the Constitution is dated and does not allow for flexibility in terms of an ability to accept any potential bequest, operational matters and changes in the village community. To date, quotes from legal firms to update the constitution had been sought. But as the Hall currently has no income this action is on hold. The revision is not urgent. The estimated cost is in the region of £1400. The new format would be in a format and of a form allowing for current OSCAR requirements, but likely to be a longer document. There would be benefits in terms of the ability to designate a chair and committee members, rather than the current requirement designating office bearers from Church and School. It was agreed to review the funding position and VH funds to ascertain when it would be appropriate to commission the work. **Action: JB/AB**

Hall Refurbishment report & update - CB summarised that the VH refurbishment was completed just pre-lockdown, spring 2020. Since then most 'snagging' corrections achieved — for example, the heating panels were replaced and proved better than those initially installed. Hall had been decorated; Dishwasher was not a priority. The lighting had also been corrected to be now efficient and manageable. A few issues to be resolved included chair storage. Project had come in on budget. There was positive feedback from users, and enquiries regarding events and hall hire were coming in. Future initiatives likely to include WiFi connection, an ongoing monthly cost would be Involved. Committee also looking into a website based Hall booking system.

Treasurer's report — AB presented a summary of the current financial position. Cost of hall hire was reviewed in 2021 and is now a standard charge to include a standard cost for electricity usage. This has been well received by hirers and stands at £12 per hour; school £15 per hour. Hall funds = £8K kept in reserve, funds stand currently just above that. Hall usage was down, due to pandemic. 2021 saw an increase from 2020, 101 uses by 12 users. Current trend saw a steady increase since September 2021, with school and playgroup the main users; other users steadily re-emerging with fitness classes, dog training, family parties etc. Cleaning costs. are up due to COVID requirements. Bear in mind that utility bills will increase due to situation. Although, for electricity a 5-

year fixed deal secured just before increases announced. Overall perspective- a relatively strong financial position. Some remedial roof works are needed, and these are to be done In February 2022.

8. Election of Committee members to fill vacancies

Jane Brand has stood down. Malcolm Duncan and Stephanie Duncan were resigning. Therefore, two new members are needed. The unwieldy nature of current 14 Committee members is something that can be reviewed when the VH constitution is updated. Meanwhile, Suzanne Burns, Lorna Mortice, Elaine Mostyn, Heather Doig agreed to stand in.

9. Matters proposed for discussion

1) **Updating conditions of let.** IP stated that these need updating, as the existing conditions dated to 2016. **Action: IP/CB**

2) **Booking system.**

Advantage of an on-line booking system outlined, also easier for those booking from outside the village. AB proposed establishing a sub group to look at this, the option/costs of wi-fi, and to manage the day to day VH running, to support IP. CB and AB to form subgroup and invited others to volunteer. **CG and HV volunteered to help.** **Action: Subgroup**

3) **Village Hall Emergency Hub**

RC suggested, after storm Arwen and the power cuts, to examine the potential for a generator for use during emergencies, and help use of the VH as a 'hub'. CB informed that an electrician had advised on a permanent hook-up for a generator. MV suggested that this is something that meets ELC's aims in establishing resilience in face of climate change; might there be some interest/support from Scottish Power outreach? Suggested that this would be another action for the subgroup to investigate and make recommendation/examine options.

10. AOB

In floor discussion, concerns were raised about the VH grounds their condition and uses.

VH boundaries: KC has reviewed these; noting works needed at lower ground level on the north retaining wall, where scrub is growing out at wall base, needs clearance/stump treatment to avoid future damage to retaining wall. JL expressed concerns about wall, emphasised the need for action.

The VH/Green boundary on the west with Good Fortune was discussed; the wall has been demolished; scrub cleared. General concerns were expressed that the boundary wall be reinstated to the original height. West boundary within VH ownership is an over-head height ivy hedge which holds the wall together, advise cutting to 1.6m height. JA Informed that wall would be reinstated. Agreed to meet to discuss the works needed to north wall, ascertain appropriate works on west boundary, and to south car parking area/boundary with public footpath.

Action: KC arrange meeting

11. James Logan thanked all attending; and thanked committee members for finance report, updates on constitution, VH systems/refurbishment and minutes.

The next Village Hall AGM - and Community Meeting to be held Tuesday 24 January 2023