

Minutes of the above Meeting

1. Welcome & Introduction:

Duncan Machell welcomed the 23 attendees to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Duncan reminded everyone that the Trustees hold the Hall in trust for the whole of Walkerburn and district community and that everyone on the electoral roll is entitled to vote. He stated that there were two main items of business on the Agenda, which were the presentation of the accounts and the election of the management committee.

2. Apologies & Notices:

Apologies were received from Kathy Ireland, Cat Worsley and Sheila Horsburgh.

3. Approval of AGM Minutes from the meeting on 14th December 2022:

The Minutes of the AGM held on 14th December 2022 were submitted for approval.

Proposed by Michel Lombreau

Seconded by Christine Tucker

4. Presentation of Financial Accounts for 2022 – 2023

Mike Wilcox, the Treasurer, notified the meeting that the access to the bank account was obtained at the end of June 2023. All transactions were then examined and all income and expenditure items had been identified. The accounts have been inspected by an independent external examiner in accordance with OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) regulations.

All back invoices have now been issued and all payments are up to date.

The current monies available to the hall, including cash which was received from the table tennis club on the day of the meeting, was c£10,000.

The utilities bill for a year amounted to around £6,000.

Denise Hanks asked what "Other Charitable Activities" in the accounts meant. Mike explained that this is the designation that the independent examiner gives to all the primary activities of the hall.

Ian Ireland asked what had happened regarding the possible money in the Dunfermline Building Society and why it is not in the accounts. Mike reported that this account had, some years ago, been consolidated into the Nationwide Building Society and the account closed by the Nationwide BS and any funds held in a central closed holding account. At the moment there is no proof of any money which is why it cannot be included in the accounts. Mike is continuing the investigation to determine if there is any money and if so, to retrieve it.

If any money is found then it will be put in to the accounts but we have to prove the money is there first.

Denise Hanks said that she had raised a formal complaint in March 2023 to which Duncan Machell responded on 5th April. Denise was querying the backdating of the charges paid by FoodHUGS for the use of Hall facilities. She was adamant that the charges had not been agreed or approved by FoodHUGS. Duncan responded that it wasn't an appropriate topic for the AGM but he was happy to discuss the matter with Denise after the meeting. She disagreed strongly with this stance.

Ian Ireland said that the FoodHUGS money does not appear in the 2021/22 accounts as “restricted” funds so the Management Committee can do what they wish with the money.

Duncan asked that the accounts be accepted:

Proposed by Kathy Keddie.

Seconded by George Thornton

5. Trustee and Management Committee Chair’s Joint Annual Report – reported by the Chair, Duncan Machell

The hall has continued to provide a venue for its regular users including Table Tennis, Youth Club, Yoga, Coffee Mornings, Community Council, Walkerburn Festival, Vegetable Show, the Church and Remembrance Sunday. The Cyrenians Cook Club and Pantry began in May 2023 and at these events we now also have a representative from the Citizens Advice Bureau. FoodHUGS stopped using the hall in January 2023 following a decision by the hall to charge for storage space and electricity use.

At the December 2022 AGM, following a vote of no confidence, there was a wholesale change in management and a Special General Meeting was held on 30th December 2022 to approve the financial accounts for the years 2019/2020, 2020/21 and 2021/22. The accounts were subsequently signed off by the independent examiner and submitted to OSCR on 14th January 2023 as required by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Since the vote of no confidence the hall’s outgoing bank account signatories steadfastly refused to co-operate with the new management committee to allow new bank signatories to be appointed which meant that we had no sight of and no access to the bank account. This jeopardised the management team’s ability to keep the hall open. For example, there was no means of paying for the insurance required to keep the hall open and it was only thanks to a local benefactor that the insurance premium could be paid. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Vicky Bannerman from the Bank of Scotland, the new management committee gained control of the hall’s bank account in June 2023.

In 2020-21, the Trustees and Management Committee agreed to convert from a Trust to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). As a SCIO we will be better structured and better suited to operate than if we remain as a Trust. Work to convert to a SCIO began in January 2023 with the help of Ian Ireland and has made good progress to date but it is not expected to be complete until next year. An email from OSCR was received in August suggesting it would take 6-9 months to complete.

The hall is now officially a Warm Hub for the village in case of emergencies and gas heaters and a portable generator, funded and obtained by the Community Council are now held in the hall for this purpose.

Finally, and most importantly, we have worked hard to gain credibility and trust with local Councillors, Funding bodies and others who are important to the future viability of the hall.

6. Election of the Management Committee (6)

The Chair suggested that if there was no objection, a vote would be taken to elect those who have already volunteered to serve on the Management Committee en masse. This was agreed. Duncan asked if there any other volunteers wishing to stand for election and there were none. Accordingly, Duncan asked the meeting if they were happy to endorse the election of the following to the Management Committee:

Cathy Hart
Kathy Keddie
Dawn Rodger
Sheilagh Sommerville
Jade Turner
Mike Wilcox
Cat Worsley

All were elected by 15 votes to zero with 8 abstentions. The Committee will meet to decide who the office bearers will be.

7. A.O.B

Denise Hanks started to make a statement to the meeting and made an accusation about the misappropriation of FoodHUGS money, but the Chair responded that this was not a matter for the AGM and offered to have a separate discussion about her grievances immediately after the meeting. Duncan suggested that Denise should raise a formal complaint to OSCR and she stated that she had already done so.

Andrew Tweedy asked what, if any, the Constitution changes meant for the Hall. Patricia Purves noted that nothing in the constitution changes except for a tightening up of a few legal matters. She suggested it would be prudent to hold an EGM to present the details to the village and district. Duncan said that an EGM or SGM would be held once the assets are ready to be transferred to agree formally that the current Trust should be dissolved and a SCIO put in its place.

John Purves proposed a vote of thanks for the brilliant job done by the Committee after the last AGM. This was seconded by Ian Ireland and a round of applause was given to show appreciation.

8. Date of next AGM:

There was no date set for the next AGM.

There being no other business, Duncan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.