

HOWGATE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2015

MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 7.40 pm and there were 8 people in attendance.

Apologies: Sheena Dawe, Pat Gordon, Karen Bennett, Nicola Taylor, Donna Drew, Shirley Murray

Welcome

Pauli Holmes, Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were reviewed and adopted as read.

Chairperson's Report

Pauli advised that she had been elected Chairperson in March following a decision to revert to a 6 month rotation of Chairman.

Grateful thanks for their valued contribution to the Association over many years were expressed to departing Committee members, Joan Stewart, Maureen Sanford and Honorary President, Colin Rorison.

What HVHA has done

Pauli congratulated the Committee members for their efforts in achieving a self funding position for the fourth successive year. Although there have been some very successful events, support for certain events during the year was very disappointing.

A decision was taken to replace the central heating boiler and the Committee acknowledges the contribution of Howgate Kirk to the significant cost of replacement.

Discussions were held during the year regarding the potential conversion of HVHA to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was decided not to progress this at this time but can be revisited in light of any change to HVHA status.

Pauli made reference to the the floral decoration maintained both by the Council and HVHA and it was agreed that these should be continued in light of the increased attractiveness of the village over the summer months.

Pauli acknowledged the contribution of producing the monthly newsletter by Karen Bennett and the maintenance of the website by Donald Cameron.

Funding applications continue in respect of the potential playpark development but there was nothing further to report.

Pauli acknowledged the contribution of the Management Committee to HVHA and thanked everyone for their support and dedication.

What HVHA has Achieved

Private hall bookings continue to be made under the auspices of Sarah Waddell and there has been recent interest expressed in regular weekend classes.

The Bridge Club and Art Class continue to be the mainstay of our regular bookings and their ongoing support is appreciated.

The Babies and Beyond playgroup is no longer running but may be relaunched as a group for school age children.

Other users of the facility are the SWRI, Howgate Kirk and the pilates class.

What Difference has HVHA Made

One of the guiding principles of the Association is that it should bring people together using the hall as a focus. The Committee continue their endeavours to organise social events to further this aim.

The Family Fireworks evening continues to attract families from the village and beyond and is a significant fund raiser for HVHA.

Pauli concluded by recording another successful year during which a reasonable proportion of the local community made use of the facility. The profile of the village is enhanced by regular advertising in the Penicuik Town Crier.

The challenge of encouraging more people to join the Committee or to lend time and support continues.

Treasurers Report

Alan Burnett, Treasurer, submitted the annual audited accounts and financial commentary which are included in the AGM pack. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Colin Rorison and seconded by Susan Gracie.

Election of Committee Members

The members will continue as noted.

AOCB

Alan Burnett advised there was an issue with the metering of electricity whereby it appears that certain areas of the hall are being charged to Howgate Kirk,

Comments were made regarding the benefit of providing sensors for the car park lights.

It was suggested that a flyer advertising the hall facilities should be handed out at the fireworks evening.

The condition of the hall noticeboard received adverse comment.

It was suggested that the exterior grounds of the hall would benefit from a tidy up.

It was suggested that the hall facilities could be promoted by better external signage.

It was suggested that consideration be given to the installation of a defibrillator in view of the age profile of hall users.

It was suggested that the flower tubs require to be replanted for next year and that some replacement of tubs will be necessary.