

Howgate Village Hall Association Minutes

Date. 25/10/21 Place. Restrie Time. 7.30pm

Present T. Schofield S. King P. Gordon S. Snodgrass I.McConnell A.McConnell

Apologies A.Proctor S.Murray

Business

Tom Schofield as Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He thanked Sarah King for her generosity in allowing the meeting to be held at her home.

Last year's minutes were discussed and approved.

The treasurer Sarah King advised the meeting of the HVHA financial situation. The accounts for the period 2019/20 had been audited and approved by the OSCR. The accounts for the period 20/21 would be audited after tonight's meeting and sent to OSCR for approval.

Accounts Summary

June 2020 closing balance £841.62

Expenditure	Insurance (June & July 2020)	£182.36
	Defibrillator pads Karen Bennett (2021)	£46.59
	Website maintenance (D.Cameron)	£101.45
	Total	£330.40
	October 2021 Balance	£511.22

Sarah informed the meeting that the renter of the Clarsach had stopped her payments due to ill health. Sarah was asked to contact her and if possible negotiate a sale of the instrument which incorporated the missed payments. A selling price of £250 was felt to be a reasonable price.

The Chair informed the meeting that the Church of Scotland were now remarketing the sale of the church, hall and glebe. Sara Snodgrass Chair of the Howgate Community Group advised on speculation that the price may have dropped considerably making a purchase by the Community Group viable. It was agreed that the HVHA, Howgate Community Council and Howgate Community Group should share information on any future developments.

It was agreed unanimously that the HVHA should continue in a "mothballed" capacity and respond to future developments.

The HVHA website's usefulness was questioned and it was agreed to retain it until the present operational contract with Donald Cameron was finished in May 2022. It was then agreed to mothball it until the HVHA's future was clear.

Sarah King informed the meeting that the HVHA facebook page had been closed due to a lack of interest.

A.O.B

The Chair informed the meeting that the defibrillator situated at the hall was in danger of not operating during cold weather as there was no power to sustain the batteries. Last year it was only thanks to Karen Bennett who had taken the equipment into her house leaving her contact information at the defibrillator site that it had continued to be available. This was felt to be unacceptable and Tom Schofield agreed to contact Midlothian Council to ask if a dedicated power supply for the defibrillator could be set up in the centre of the village.

Sarah Snodgrass informed the meeting that a new site for the mandatory Howgate Community Council notice board was required and she hoped this would resolve amicably with the Tipperwell Housing Group.

Sarah King suggested that the HVHA hold an outside carol meeting on the Sunday before Christmas. She was willing to hold it in her garden. The suggestion was agreed and Sarah was encouraged to progress as she felt necessary. A Gala Day was also suggested and further action on this could be discussed early next year.

A.McConnell