

**MINUTES OF THE
LONGFORMACUS VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND
EGM HELD 31st May 2022**

Trustees present; Ettie Spencer (chair); Keith Noddle (treasurer); Jonathan Wood (minutes)

In attendance; Kathleen White; Delphine Seersha Lefevre; Corine Craik

In attendance but not voting; Jenny Haines (BAVS); Juliana Amaral (BAVS); Heather Bewick (hall housekeeper).

The purpose of the meeting was explained; for the current board of trustees to stand down and a new board to be elected (AGM); for a vote to be held on an alteration of the current Deed of Trust, to enable transfer of assets from Longformacus Village Improvements Committee to the new charity, a SCIO, Longformacus Village Hall Committee. (EGM).

The outgoing chair's report was read out.

Chair's Report.

Tonight's meeting consists of an AGM and an EGM. The EGM will take place during the last part of the evening, and consists of a vote on a clause in the old constitution, the Deed of Trust. My report is part of the AGM.

I have been chair of Longformacus Village Hall Committee since 2018, at which time there were 6 people on the committee. 3 have left during this time, and we have been unable to recruit since then. Keith Noddle is the treasurer. Jonathan Wood is minute taker to the committee.

Before lockdown, the hall was running well. The committee renewed the heating system. We employed Heather Bewick as housekeeper, and Zoe Munro as her assistant. Zoe also took on the hall bookings via the Lammermuir Live website. Kim Drysdale was employed to do the book-keeping, in support of the treasurer. The hall was heavily used, with something happening every day of the week including;

Yoga; Craft workshops; Table Tennis; Playgroups; Community Café; Sewing course; Committee meetings for CELCA and LVHC; Messy church – and over the Christmas period, wreath-making, Christmas crafts, fundraising events for the Heritage Centre, Christmas café, etc. In addition, a

range of private bookings including a fundraising ceilidh, theatre performance and private parties took place.

Sadly lockdown in March 2020 closed the hall for general use, and for nearly two years special restrictions were in place, around social distancing and cleaning. However, the hall was kept open as an emergency hub, held in the porch, and later the Food Larder used the hall on a regular basis.

During this time, Heather and Zoe cleaned, maintained and ran the hall in line with COVID restriction guidelines. 9 small round tables were bought to facilitate social distancing during any permissible events. The committee bought a outside storage unit to enable the food larder to make some food available at all times.

Since the lockdown has been lifted, activities have gradually been re-established, including the Community Café, Yoga and the Playgroup, and successful Watch Promotions folk music gig.

Meanwhile, the hall development project progressed to the point that full consultation was completed; it was signed off with Berwickshire planning department and under the auspices of a new architect, contractors are ready to start and new costings are complete. Since Brexit and Lockdown however, the cost of building materials has increased by up to 50%. These revised costs are ready to be submitted to CELCA. OSCR (Scottish Charities Regulator) have advised the committee of the need for an AGM this year, after a period when normal service has been suspended. It was agreed with BAVS (Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services) and OSCR, to pause the building project, for it to come under the auspices of the new committee. BAVS have agreed to offer training to the new committee on the running of LVHC.

Treasurer's Report

Following the chair's report, the treasurer referred to the current audited accounts to indicate a healthy balance currently in the current account of Longformacus Village Improvements Committee, with some payments still due to the hall from hall hire.

Retiral of the outgoing board, and voting in of the new board.

At this point the three current trustees stepped down from the board. The Chair and the Treasurer indicated they would not be standing again, and they were duly thanked for their considerable contributions to the running of the hall.

Delphine Lefevre was proposed by Jonathan Wood and seconded by Ettie Spencer and duly elected to the board.

Jonathan Wood was proposed by Keith Noddle and seconded by Kathleen White and duly elected to the board.

Corine Craik was proposed by Delphine Lefevre and seconded by Ettie Spencer and duly elected to the board.

Kathleen White, as representative of a number of hall-based groups, is considering whether she could also join the board.

Next AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th Nov, 2023 at Longformacus Village Hall.

The first meeting of the new board to decide post-holders, and to hear from BAVS about roles and responsibilities of Board Members is on July 12th 2022 at 7pm. This is a further opportunity for anyone interested still in joining the board to attend.

EGM.

The committee applied to OSCR in 2018/19 to work towards dissolving the old Deed of Trust for the charity Longformacus Village Improvements Committee. This Deed of Trust was made in 1979 when the village was a very different place, and the articles of the trust are outdated and in many cases inappropriate now. A new charity (a SCIO) was created and agreed by OSCR – Longformacus Village Hall Committee – with an up-to-date constitution, which will guide the committee going forward.

To dissolve the old Deed of Trust is a two stage process. This evening, we need to vote on an alteration to the Deed of Trust – to add an amendment to enable transfer of funds and assets from the old committee to the new committee.

A second vote, once the assets have been transferred will be required to dissolve the Deed of Trust.

Those present and eligible to vote were asked did they agree this amendment or not. The six members eligible to vote agreed the amendment. An electronic link to enable others in the Longformacus area to vote will be sent out through the Herald, and there are paper copies available for anyone who prefers attached to the Longformacus Village Hall Notice board.

Here is the link to form. BAVS are overseeing this vote, and closing date for response will be Weds 15th June 2022

<https://forms.office.com/r/7j4UPu0u00>

This marked the end of the meeting.

