

Bulletin from Longformacus Village Hall Committee 26th February 2021

Update on progress with SCIO.

Longformacus Village Improvements Committee has been in the process of moving from an old constitution – a Deed of Trust set up in 1979 when the village was a very different place, population-wise – to a new constitution, a SCIO – a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – as Longformacus Village Hall Committee. While the SCIO was agreed some time ago, this process has proved more complicated than any of us could have imagined. We are now working with BAVS and OSCR to help us navigate the final stages of this process.

First, the old Deed of Trust has to be altered to allow the transfer of assets to the newly constituted SCIO. (Assets in this case means the village hall bank balance, and the lease with Borders Council, for the village hall.) To change the Deed of Trust requires public notification and probably a public meeting – although we are waiting on OSCR for details of this.

Once this change has been made, we can apply to OSCR to have the old Deed of Trust dissolved. At the point this has been agreed, we must give notice that we will hold an AGM to elect a new committee of management, to the newly constituted SCIO. We hope that the first stage of changing the terms of the Deed of Trust will happen within 3-4 weeks.

The second stage – moving to dissolve the old organization and elect a committee to the new SCIO could take 2-3 months, depending how quickly OSCR processes our application. BAVS will be assisting us through these processes and will be calling and chairing the required public meetings – most likely held on ZOOM, depending on lockdown restrictions.

It is not an option to stay with the old Deed of Trust. OSCR has encouraged village halls to reconstitute themselves as SCIOs - because the new constitutions are clearer and more sound, legally, than the old style Deeds of Trust. We will therefore be seeking people to step forward for election to the new committee in the coming months.

Hall development update.

Unfortunately, like everything during lockdown, progress has been slow - although progressing.

The building warrant has finally been varied since re submitting the plans for the hub extension, in order to move the side wall so that there is a small gap between it and the shared party wall with Ash Cottage. The architect has now received all the quotes he needs to submit the whole project to the Quantity Surveyor for final detailed costings - and then get a final quote from the builder. Therefore work on site should begin fairly soon.

It is hoped that when lockdown rules are eased back to the level we were on pre-Christmas the limited activities that had restarted at that time can resume. This

included the Windmill café, yoga and the food larder. It is anticipated that other activities may be able to resume alongside these if the development works are done in stages i.e stage 1. the porch demolished and the extension built, sealed off from the main hall so that it can continue to be used. Stage 2. refurbishing the main hall sealed off from the hub. The hub could then begin to be used instead. Timing remains unknown for a while yet.

The Village Hall Committee

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