



HOPEMAN Community Association

MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 29th Feb 2024

1. Sederunt: Dennis Slater (DS), Adam Csenki (ACS), Rhona Grant (RG), Janice Craib, John Butcher (JBT), Annette Gault, John Tulloch (JT), Mary MacDonald (MMD), Leslie McPherson, Stevie McPherson (SMP), John Massie, James McPherson (JSMP), Vivian Hendry (VH), Pat Bray (PBR), John Bray, Jennifer Middlecoat (JMC), Maggie Taylor, Stevie McPherson, Alix, Jim McPherson, Paul King, Jack Wood (JW), Mary MacDonald (MMD), Carole Thomson (CT)
2. Apologies: Pat MacKay, Jenny Adams, Peter Goodwin, Maureen Taylor, James Allan, John Cowe, Lindsay Nelson, Mandy Butcher, Xander Craib, John McPherson, Ken MacDonald

After the apologies, DS noted with regret the passing of Christine McLean.

3. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting

The minutes of January's meeting were accepted after MMD proposed and PBR seconded.

4. Correspondence

a. David Kelly Wedding

A request to use the pagoda for a wedding on 3rd August 2024 was noted by DS and it was agreed that chairs could also be used.

b. Speeding in the Village

DS had received two messages and a 'phone call about speeding in the village, especially Cooper St, Duff St and School Rd, sometimes late at night. DS has reported it to the police. It was noted that Moray Council has released funding for community wardens, and it was hoped that there would be someone in this post around Hopeman at some point.



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ACTION: ACS to email the Hopeman Primary School to ask about pupils designing signs, VH volunteered to help coordinate signs if a design is worked out.

c. Work Projects

After three quotes were shared, the committee approved asking Chris Coleman to fix the harbour toilet fence and the floral bed at the beach.

ACTION: DB to instruct CC and lead on this.

d. Beach Clean enquiry

An email from Jenny Adams was read out, asking for information about litter pickers for the Kirk beach clean on the 16th March. The committee commented that Moray Council would be the best people to ask as they have litter pickers and uplift the sacks of rubbish too.

ACTION: ACS to reply to JA.

5. Matters Arising from previous minutes

a. Bank Account - card and internet access

The committee approved opening internet banking and a debit card facility on our account, on the condition that the internet banking transfers be two-person authorisation, and the debit card have a limit of £200 for one person authorisation.

ACTION: JBT to open this facility on the account.

b. SCIO - Hall Transfer

The committee was updated on the progress of the Memorial Hall transfer to the SCIO, namely that the extant title holders of the Hall were due to be contacted by the solicitor to sign over their titles.



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c. Flower beds at the beach

As pt. 4c

6. New items for discussion

a. Hopeman Kirk Update

The committee approved writing an email to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to ask for an update on the date of closure, and thus opening a conversation about the clock tower, and indeed potential next steps for the Kirk itself. JW noted that the Kirk Action Group is still awaiting a reply from the Presbytery to their questions. The committee also agreed that any discussions about potentially taking the Kirk into community ownership would have to take place at an Extraordinary Meeting, with every resident being given ample notice that this discussion was taking place.

ACTION: Trustees to draft and send an email to the address provided by JA.

b. Nae Excuse

CT advised the committee that she intends to publish a Nae Excuse next month, to resume as an information leaflet for what's on in Hopeman. Thanks was given to CT for resurrecting this, and anyone who could help should get in touch. The issue of printing was mentioned, and it was noted that the printer in the Committee Room should be able to print from a USB pen, rather than copy from the glass.

ACTION: CT to progress this with the Trustees' help.

c. Black Sheddie Roof

DS noted that the Black Sheddie Roof is leaking. JT offered to have a look at it for a potential patch-up. It was noted that to repair the whole roof (which will need to be done) would be around £4,000.



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7. External Reports

a. Councillors' Report

None present

b. Planning Applications

None relevant

8. Sub Committee Reports (by exception)

a. Memorial Hall

JBR gave the report, noting that:

- The fixed-rate electricity tariff will soon come to an end,
- As rents have not increased for two years, they will increase by 50p/hour for the back hall; £1/h for the main hall from 1st April.
- He had attended an event seminar by Moray Council which was helpful. He noted that events with charity collections must have a (free) licence from Moray Council.

b. Pavilion Sports Hub

SMP gave the report, noting that at the well-attended AGM, Ian Lunan was voted as Chair and Walter Deans as Treasurer. The pavilion has been painted, and the new booking system has seen the first few bookings coming through.

The committee approved looking into buying a pitch lining machine as the Council Costs would be an ongoing expense for matches.

ACTION: JBT to sort the purchase of a lining machine, DS to bring this issue up with the councillors.



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c. Gala

JMC thanked the Memorial Hall for free meetings and publicised the next meeting. It was also noted that the skate park is due to be fixed in time for the Gala, so the skate competition should go ahead. After a question about who was the Gala Queen in 2015, some suggestions were given about how to track down this missing information.

d. Skate Park,

Although IR was not present, it was noted that the fundraiser currently stands at over £15,000 out of a £30,000 total.

e. Floral Committee

MMD noted that the fencing around the two boats needs replaced, and the bed at phone box has been cleared.

f. SOS Group

RG reported that five SOS members have been invited to Hollyrood to the public gallery for a debate about local surgeries, followed by meetings with Health Leaders of each political group. It was also announced that the group has been offered use of the Burghead Surgery free for a year through the Duthie Family.

9. Finance

JBT presented the accounts for 2023, showing a balance of £34,566.27.

10. Any Other Business

- a. It was noted that Hopeman Sands is under new ownership - let's go and support our local businesses!



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- b. Earthtime Nursery has started a drop-off service at the Pavilion at 8:30am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for pupils at Hopeman Primary School. To register children for this free service, contact Earthtime.
- c. Thanks was given to JSMP for a donation back to HCA (regarding a Santa suit).
- d. It was noted that dogs should not be off the lead in any area of the playing field.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Committee Meeting was set for 28th March 2024, 7pm in the Hall.

Meeting closed, 20:32