



# HOPEMAN Community Association

## SC003406 - Minutes of General Committee Meeting 30th June 2025

1. **Sederunt** – W. Clark (Chair), J. Butcher, M. Butcher, M. Brown, Grace Angus, Kate Mathieson, F. Wilkes, Maggie Taylor, J. Bray, P. Bray, C. Forsyth, A. Stewart, D. Slater, Jack Wood, Neil Cameron, Laura Sutherland, Ian Sutherland, Lesley McPherson, James Ferguson, Wilma Ferguson, Mary MacDonald, Ness Tunggal, Peter Goodwin, Jennifer Middlecote, Janice Craib, Annette Gault, Alexander Craib
2. **Apologies:** Adam Csenki – Adam and family have recently welcomed a wee boy to the family. The community wishes them well as they all settle into a new family dynamic. Apologies also from: Carole Wood, Catherine Main, John Mackay, Bridget Mustard, Ken Macdonald, Ellen Stewart, Stevie Macpherson, K. Cook, J. Massie.

3 **Minutes of previous meeting** approved and seconded by Kate Mathieson

4 **Correspondence** – emails received on the rise of Beach hut rents read aloud to the community group. Ian Sutherland agreed with most of the sentiments in the emails and discussed his own situation. A wide variety of people from the meeting spoke and gave clear opinions and views on the rent increases for the beach hut. Time was spent listening to all who wanted to speak on the issues. Thank you to all for listening and responding appropriately in a valuable and agreeable way.

**Common consensus and agreement reached- Rent for all will increase by RPI as per contract this year with letters being sent out today. This will give the HCA time to create 2 meetings for after the summer – 1 for the beach hut owners and 2 for the residents of Hopeman. At these meetings a trustee will chair and present the documents of the constitution with its aims and objectives and the gift of the land with its rules and regulations. This group should also clarify the lines around resident and local. The group should also ask current beach holders to make sure huts are repaired and in good condition and clarify how many if any huts are held by holiday let properties. A consensus will then be reached about how to go forward with the rise of rents for both these groups.**

5a **Beach hut waiting list draw** – community felt unable to complete this and this aspect should also be discussed at the meetings above.

5b The committee were informed that Moray Council have been approached as legal owners of the land and have confirmed that having two rates differentiating between residents and non-residents is not discriminatory, as this is the wording in the contract. The council also confirmed that HCA have the sole right to amend contracts as they please, without the Council needing to approve any decision.

5c The group was informed that Fraser has not paid his debt back to the HCA.

It was proposed that: Fraser's debt should be reinstated to cover the whole amount, not just the third that was previously agreed.



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b) Fraser should not be able to profit from any event in Hopeman until the debt is repaid and reviewed.

Time was then given for all who attended the meeting to have their view and opinion heard and a discussion was held regarding the support given to Fraser, namely the offer for him to only pay a third of the costs, the ability to pay this up slowly, a member of the community supported Fraser in a mentor role with the documentation needed to hold an event, the community provided an extra event for Fraser to hold and make the money he needed to pay the funds back. Fraser had also attended a meeting and told the community his business was going well and he would pay. The community felt that it had done all it can to support Fraser to pay the funds back.

After everyone's views were heard a vote was conducted on the proposals:

- a) Frasers debt should be reinstated to cover the whole amount, not just the third that was previously agreed.  
7 members voted yes  
7 members voted no  
5 members abstained from voting

The Chair then had the deciding vote and the Chair voted for the funds asked for to stay at the third that was previously agreed.

**The motion was then passed that Fraser should pay back the third which was agreed previously.**

- b) Fraser should not be able to profit from any event in Hopeman until the debt is repaid and reviewed.  
14 members agreed  
0 members voted against this  
5 members abstained from voting.

**The motion passed was that Fraser should not be able to profit from any event in Hopeman until the debt is repaid and reviewed.**

**Action** - The chair agreed to contact Fraser and make him aware of the outcome of this meeting. The chair also agreed to let Fraser know that he is welcome to volunteer at the Gala and run events voluntarily and without profit but no monies for his business must be made until his debt is repaid.

As the discussion above included the idea of going to the small claims court this was also voted upon:

- 2 members voting for yes  
12 members for no  
5 members abstaining



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**HCA will therefore not be actioning a motion for the small claims court.**

6 **New Chair for HCA-** Wanda apologised and explained she can not continue as chair due to life events currently and asked for a proposal of a new chair or an interim chair until the AGM in November. This is the Chair's last meeting and from today she informed the committee that she will not be coordinating or acting as chair for HCA.

No proposals were made. Thanks were given to Wanda by the community for the work already completed.

**It was agreed that an EGM be held at the beginning of the next HCA meeting in August.**

7: **Councillors report** – Thanks to the Chair for her work and thanks to all for how everyone conducted themselves at this meeting and comments received about how well run it was.

Outdoor bin for wooden park – this is not a council matter and HCA would need to contact John Tulloch for support in this area.

**Planning applications** – none

8 **Memorial Hall** – Hall will be closed on 8<sup>th</sup> July for annual electrical inspection. Quotes for the major repairs have been gathered and Andrew Stewart was accepted at £25,000. The hall budget has given £10,000 to start the work and we will need £15,000 in raised funds to complete the work and keep the hall open during the winter. Fencing will be going up over the car park as it is dangerous with stonework falling off the roof into the car park. Thanks to the committee for completing the gathering and decision on which quote to accept.

The question was asked about how the community funded the hall in the past and John explained how the residents of Hopeman all put money towards the building and maintenance of the hall. John Butcher proposed an action of a letter to each household explaining the repairs needed and a bank account where people could transfer, if they wanted to, money to every week, month or for a one off donation. This would be voluntary and would help gather donations to continue using the hall. **This was agreed by all and JBT will prepare the letter and information.**

**Playing field** – see above mins on beach huts

**Pavilion-** none

**Skate park** – Ian to be contacted for a date for the repairs to be completed. Trustees to contact the advert for skateboard coaching in Hopeman and stop this advert and the classes going ahead, report to police as necessary.



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**Gala-** awaiting licence from Moray council, programme made, tickets, adverts out. Marquee will be arriving soon. Please come along and enjoy the week.

**Floral committee-** busy filling up all the pots around the village with flowers, hanging baskets need to come down, old barrels outside hall need to be taken away.

**Outdoor gym-** Application from lottery was unsuccessful due to a land issue, fundraising to continue. Tender of council completed, need to continue to look at grants available.

**SOS Group-** Meeting held with minister of health, discussed nurse lead project and another meeting is proposed for this week to look at objectives and design of the project.

**Kirk group** – Current thinking from Church of Scotland stands that Hopeman church will continue as it is for now. Discussion around the point that the church is held in trust for the Hopeman people which it serves.

**Finance** – handed out financial information and discussed.

### Any other business

Open day at Hopeman primary school – chair commented on what a great event it was, families looking at the Gala photo books through the generations. A lovely link to continue.

Ideas gathered from families – telescope in the pagoda, elderly finding it difficult to actually get onto the beach, could we make a walkway?

Hopeman Primary school awards- Chair handed out awards and made links with families.

Sauna on beach – discussed placing of this and offer given to clear the stones to make a walk way for the elderly onto the beach, thanks given and agreed.

Our thoughts go out to the families of Fiffe Maclellan and Dougie Ash who both passed away recently, we are all sorry for your loss.