



# HOPEMAN Community Association

## MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 30th January 2025

### 1. Sederunt:

Wanda Clark (WCL), Adam Csenki (ACS), John Butcher (JBT), Pat Bray (PBR), John Bray (JBR), Mary MacDonald (MMD), Ken MacDonald (KMD), Annette Gault, James McPherson, Peter Goodwin, Jennifer Middlecote (JMC), Andy Middlecote, Cllr John Cowe (JC), Grace Angus, Frith Noble, Fiona Wilkes, John Massie, Karen Cook, Carol Wood, Jack Wood, Jim McPherson, Kate Mathieson, Maggie Taylor, Syanness Tunggal (SYT), Dennis Slater (DS), Janice Crai, Mandy Butcher, Wilma Ferguson, Jim Ferguson, Vivien Hendry, Rhona Grant, Murray Easton (ME).

### 2. Apologies: Pedro Abreu, Elaine Stockdale, Pat MacKay, Ellen Stewart, Leslie McPherson, Cllr Neil Cameron, Cllr Bridget Mustard, Cllr James Allen

### 3. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (AGM, Nov 2024) were accepted after MMD proposed and JBT seconded.

#### 3a. Chairperson's Welcome.

WCL shared her welcome, attached as a separate document. Subcommittee heads were encouraged to get in touch so that she could visit their meetings.

### 4. Correspondence

#### a. Bowling Club Lease

After a discussion about the letter received from the Bowling Club asking for a lease extension, the committee agreed extending the lease for 99 years, with an option written into the new lease that the land off Inverugie Rd, currently used as an overflow carpark, could be taken back into HCA direct ownership with six months' notice.

**ACTION:** ACS to write to the Bowling Club



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### 5. Matters Arising from previous minutes

#### a. Treasurer Role

After the departure of KMD as Treasurer, the committee voted JBT to be Treasurer as of this meeting.

#### b. Consolidated Accounts

As below, EGM.

#### c. Youth Club Feedback

WCL outlined the efforts she has gone to to start something for the youth of the village. Despite healthy returns on the online survey with some poignant points about teenagers feeling isolated with a lack of entertainment outside their own homes in the evening, not one turned up in person to the meeting in December. An idea was floated that Hopeman Sands be approached to see if they would open one evening a week to start something, and this was welcomed by the committee.

ACTIONS: WCL to approach Hopeman Sands. ANY VOLUNTEERS who would enjoy doing something with our young people, for example cooking, craft, or even just supporting in a space, please contact the HCA.

#### d. Playpark Upgrade (Adult Gym Equipment)

SYT outlined the work she has done so far, with help from Football Club, Ball Group, Fiona, DS and PAB, namely that after meeting with two suppliers and a site visit, the equipment is decided and the cost has been calculated as £10,000 + VAT. Thanks was given to John Tulloch who has kindly offered to submit the planning permission. Fundraising is now required, any ideas to SYT, please.



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### 6. New items for discussion

#### a. Weddings in the Gala Marquee

Following a query last year about whether weddings in the gala marquee which received a donation under the market rate for weddings, or under the daily rate of total cost (worked by dividing the total cost of the marquee by the number of days it was up at the Playing Fields) would be seen to be the HCA subsidising a private function, ME confirmed that this would not fall foul of charity law and weddings could proceed. It was confirmed that there has been a wedding booked in the marquee for Gala 2025, and the expected donation is £600.

However, it was agreed that any future wedding requests should be run by the committee before approval.

ACTION: If a future wedding request comes in, Gala committee to inform HCA.

#### b. Next Nae Excuse

After a discussion about Nae Excuse and whether it could or should become more regular, the idea of including our community and groups' information in the Spotlight magazine was floated.

ACTION: ACS to get in touch with Spotlight Magazine to explore this possibility.

#### c. 'Time to Chat' initiative

WCL informed the committee that a fairly housebound resident had got in touch asking about phone contact to combat loneliness.

ACTION: WCL to signpost people to NEOC, Minibus and Community Hubs, including the Social Hub which is every Monday in Hopeman.

#### d. Hopeman Monopoly idea

In the absence of PAB, this item was deferred.



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### 7. External Reports

#### a. Councillors' Report

JCO gave the report, noting that:

- The MConnect bus is expanding the route (starting in May) and is scheduled to include a Hopeman to Lossiemouth link.
- The Harbour had been surveyed and deemed 'quite good' (busy harbour, pontoons at full capacity and access bridge in good condition). There is a dredging plan, including 'land based dredging', although it remains unclear as to how a land based dredger will manage to dump the silt far enough out to sea so as not to get swept back into the harbour again. The Selkie, also surveyed, achieved a very poor reliability score.

#### b. Planning Applications

The committee was made aware of a renewal of planning approval 21/01502/APP at the land adjacent to Coolangatta, Hopeman.

### 8. Sub Committee Reports (by exception)

- Memorial Hall

JBR gave the report, noting that:

- The repair work at the back hall and the corridor has been completed, and thanks to everyone who helped, especially David Craib.
- The lock on the main door has been changed, new lights in the main hall, kitchen and ladies' toilet.
- As the Hall is 100 years old this year, there is a memorial event planned for September: photos needed of events over the years.



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- There has been moderate storm damage to the roof including roof nails and stonework. As a full survey is too expensive, an event is being planned for May to raise funds and awareness.
- A Deputy Hall Convenor is being looked for.

- Pavilion Sports Hub

There are new doors needed on the Pavilion and a quote has been received.

- Gala

JMC noted that the Programme Lead has resigned, anyone interested, contact JMC. Also needed are four to six parking marshalls for the fete day. Thanks was given to Janice Craib, Caroline Forsyth and Dave Ball who are all either stepping down or slightly back from their various roles. The Ball Group are booked to use the Marquee for their 20th celebrations for one of the days. JMC also confirmed that she would be stepping down as Gala Convenor after the 2025 Gala.

- Floral Committee

There has been a tree planted to remember James Bruce at Pickylaw with a plaque also in place.

### 9. Finance

JBT gave the report, attached as a separate document.

### 10. Any Other Business

- DS took a few words to formally remember the passing of James Bruce.



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- VH talked about the Save Our Libraries campaign. There is a demonstration planned outside the council building on the 19th February 2025, and more information can be found on the Save Our Libraries facebook page.

ACTION: VH to draft some information which ACS can send out to the mailing list.

- EH (through VH) says thank you for the support to HCA and local businesses. He went to America and came back with two national titles. He has his first MMA fight in Aberdeen coming up and is looking for business sponsors.
- There is a walking and art festival in May on the theme of coastal erosion. If anyone is interested, get in touch with VH.
- After a question about firebreaks, DS confirmed he will look into this.

### 11. Extraordinary Motion (Consolidated Accounts).

The Committee accepted the accounts presented, and thanks was given to ME. ME noted that the general account balance was now getting low and that fundraising activities should be thought about.

It is hoped that, for 2025, the subcommittee account holders could be given one month's notice to prepare the accounts so that all could be by the end of October, then all consolidated for the AGM.

ACTION: ME to forward the accounts to Cathedral Accounting.

### 12. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 27th February 2025, 7pm in the Hall.

Meeting closed 20:53