



HOPEMAN Community Association

MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND EGM Thursday 26th August 2025 7pm - 8.30pm

1. Sederunt:

John Butcher (JBT), Adam Csenki (ACS), Pedro Abreu (PAB), Malcolm Brown, Alan Munsie (AM), Maggie Taylor, Marian Conti, Pat Bray (PBR), Naomi McKinlay, John Urquhart, Ellen Stewart, Kate Mathieson, Cllr James Allan (JAL), Cllr Neil Cameron (NC), Ness Tunggall (NT), Carol Wood (CW), Jack Wood, Fiona Wilkes, Pat MacKay, Rhona Grant, Janice Craib, Lindsay Nelson (Beeline), Annette Gault, Aoife Irwin Moore (AIM), Grace Angus (GA), Helen Hay, Elaine Sutherland, Mary MacDonald, Peter Goodwin, Catherine Main, Esther Jack, Jim McPherson, Mandy Butcher (MBT), John Buchanan, Ian Ralph.

As the Chair was absent from the meeting and the vice-chair was not present at the start, the floor nominated John Butcher to Chair the meeting.

2. Apologies

Zander Craib, Cllr John Cowe, Jennifer Middlecote (JMC), Dennis Slater (DS), Cllr Bridget Mustard, Ken MacDonald (KMD)

3. EGM - New Chair of HCA, Hall Convenor.

Unfortunately, no one volunteered to take the Chair. The remaining Trustees are able to keep the charity 'ticking over' until the AGM when it is hoped all positions will be filled.

ACS notified the Committee that, having served five years as Secretary, he will not be seeking re-election at the AGM.

PBR volunteered to be the interim Hall Convenor until the AGM and this was approved by the Committee.

4. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (June 2025) were accepted after PBR proposed and GA seconded.

5. Correspondence

An email from DS was read out.



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6. External Reports

a. Councillors' Report

NC updated the Committee on the wildfires with a summit planned for all stakeholders to discuss a strategy. Any ideas or concerns, please pass them on.

JAL notified the Committee that the council was looking at libraries through user groups with possible extra opening hours planned.

The Councillors received local issues from the floor to raise, including:

- Dredging (lack of) in Hopeman Harbour,
- Speed warning sign not working,
- Pickylaw path being overgrown,
- Steppies up from Chippy in a state of disrepair.

b. Planning Applications

None relevant

7. Sub Committee Reports (by exception)

a. Gym Equipment (NT)

£3,300 had been raised from the community, and funding from Baxter's and TSI Groups has been applied for with decisions due at the end of the month. West Beach Caravan Park has committed to match £3,000, this news was received with gratitude by the Committee. Well done to all.

b. Memorial Hall (PBR)

Herris fencing up to protect the public from falling masonry with the first stage of repairs hoped to start in the next couple of weeks. Hall Committee are organising an event on Saturday 13th September to mark 100 years of the Hall with displays a quiz, teas and coffees etc (1925 style homebakes). There will also be a church service of rededication.

c. Playing Field & Beach (ACS)

Hut Stance 26 - The Committee were informed that, after receiving a written request from the leaseholder, stance 26 is being transferred to Mrs Kerry MacKenzie of Ellon (daughter).

Hut Stance 22 - The Committee were informed that a written request had been received from the daughter of the late leaseholder (having passed away in January) asking to



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take on the lease. As the contract states that transfer of ownership can only be transferred from the Lessee (Clause 5), and considering the fact that the leaseholder also has a son still living who would have also had the right to receive the transfer, the Trustees had denied the request pending the Committee meeting.

Unfortunately, the Committee was unable to agree on any way forward; neither to formally terminate the lease and give it to the next Hopeman resident on the waiting list, nor to pass on the lease to the daughter.

It was noted that HCA is now missing out on the annual rent of this stance.

An exemption from water rates has been submitted by JBT who will also look at the energy supply for the Playing Fields to get a better deal.

It was noted that the 'No parking on the grass' signs are no longer at the Playing Fields.

d. Pavilion Sports Hub,

AM noted the damage on the west door, and some tiles on the roof after the storm. This will be addressed.

e. Skate Park (IR)

IR gave the report, noting that he had spent over six hours rebuilding the half pipe, and the frame has been done for the new sections to go onto. The Facebook page was highlighted as a good place to report any problems. The broken lamp was noted, and it was agreed to move the bins to the edge of the road to ease emptying.

f. Gala (JMC *in absentia*)

By email: 'We are delighted with the success of 2025 Gala Week. It was well-attended, supported, and brought many opportunities for our lovely community and visitors to come together and have fun together. The Gala Committee and crew were amazing, working well together to ensure everything was in place and ready to go at the right time. The wider community was a great support, helping with set up and take down, attending events, making sandwiches, baking and giving their time in many ways. Please accept my sincere thanks to every one of you! We are looking forward to sharing the final numbers at the end of September as usual. Elaine, the Gala Treasurer, is working hard on them now.'



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g. Floral Committee

MBT - thanked the floral group helpers. The Beach area and the boat area look fantastic. Personal donations have been used. KMD and Donald Beattie were thanked for the effort with the wall opposite the CostCutter. There are still repairs needed at the wall at the top of Harbour St; someone will be found.

h. SOS Group (RG)

No update

i. Kirk Group (CW)

No update.

8. Finance (JBT)

See attached report.

9. Any Other Business

- a. Naomi McKinlay, the new pastor at Hopeman Baptist Church was formally welcomed to the village and the Committee.
- b. Too many vehicles at the Harbour during the summer, as well as the need for double yellow lines at the crane was brought up. It was noted that HCA does not control this land and residents can put their opinions to the Council directly.
- c. Speeding in the village was again discussed. The 20's Plenty signs are ready, were shown at the meeting and will be installed.
- d. It was noted that the outstanding debt from the Hall Damage (see minutes *passim*) had been paid and this matter was now deemed closed.
- e. The Gala Committee Meeting on Tuesday 2nd September was publicised.
- f. AIM was welcomed back as Hopeman Primary School link after a year's sabbatical at the Steiner School. She reported that the Wild Garden will be moved to be with the HCA Heritage Garden, and that the MConnect Bus, taking pupils to and from Earthtime Nursery had been really successful.



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- g. The End of Summer Ceilidh was publicised.
- h. The Halloween Party currently clashes with October's meeting; a solution will be found.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for 25th September 2025, 7pm in the Hall.

Meeting closed 20:08