



UPDATE - APRIL 2021

1. Introduction

When the AGM for the Tynninghame Village Hall (the "**Village Hall**") had to be held virtually last year, I don't believe any of us imagined we would be doing the same a whole year later...yet here we are! I hope that you are all well and that the lighter nights and prospect of the loosening of Covid restrictions in the near future is giving hope and comfort to you all.

The AGM for the Village Hall will, unfortunately, once again have to be held virtually (via video conference) this year. This update is designed to provide you with details which would otherwise have been discussed in person at the AGM and to help ensure that proceedings at the virtual AGM can proceed efficiently.

Whilst the Village Hall has been closed for most of the last year, there have been some events and various steps forward in upgrading the facilities, further details of which are below.

The efforts of the wider community throughout the pandemic have brought out the community spirit which makes Tynninghame such a special place. Even with the Village Hall, which typically acts as a focal point for the community, being closed, it has been great to see that the community is very much open and continues to be so welcoming and supportive.

Hopefully you will find the update useful and if you have any questions in respect of this, or indeed in respect of the Village Hall more generally, please feel free to ask questions at the virtual AGM, speak to one of the committee or email tynninghamevillagehall@gmail.com.

2. Village Hall Committee

As a reminder, the Village Hall Committee currently consists of:

- David Clark (Chair)
- Chris Gunstone (Secretary)
- Tim Harper (Treasurer)
- Erica Wimbush

A Scottish charitable incorporated organisation, registered number SC047531
Tynninghame Village Hall, Main Street, Tynninghame, EH42 1XL
Chairperson: David Clark; Secretary: Chris Gunstone; Treasurer: Tim Harper.
email: tynninghamevillagehall@gmail.com



- Alison McGregor
- Shireen Green
- Carol Crowther
- Barbara Schofield
- Daniel Wight (as representative of Dunpender Community Council)

Dave Wakefield takes responsibility for day to day operations of the Village Hall and special thanks must go to him for ensuring the smooth operation of the Village Hall over the last year, particularly for helping so diligently make preparations to re-open the Village Hall in a Covid compliant manner when possible. Sadly, Dave is stepping back from his role in order to focus on re-opening the Smithy and will be greatly missed...albeit he won't be too far away.

Margaret Evans and Jessica Chatters recently both stood down from the Committee. Both made such valuable contributions to the Village Hall whilst on the Committee and their input will be missed.

As a Committee, we are also very grateful to the various other sub-committees/friends of the Village Hall who do so much in organising events and participating in these.

If anyone else would like to join the Committee (or recommend a friend...) please do let us know.

3. Update

The last year has focussed largely on two areas: (1) fundraising/refurbishment efforts; and (2) events (when permitted).

Refurbishment/fundraising

In the absence of events, one of the key areas of focus in the past year has been to progress plans to upgrade the facilities in the Village Hall (and so encourage/facilitate wider use by the community).

I am pleased to report that there have been a number of developments in the last year including the following:

- new energy efficient lighting has been installed;
- the antiquated heaters have been replaced with more energy efficient alternatives (which don't have a red-glow!);
- the electrics for the main hall have been replaced (as issues were identified as part of routine checks);
- the wooden floor of the main hall was scrubbed by a team of volunteers;
- a commercial dishwasher has been installed;
- insulation has been added to the roof of the main hall;
- planning permission has been secured for upgrades to the toilet facilities and work is due to commence in April.

These improvements will hopefully mean we have a warm, welcoming and more energy efficient hall for use by the whole community going forward.

A number of different people have fed into the upgrades but particular thanks must go to Erica Wimbush for being a fundraiser extraordinaire, without whose drive much of the above would not have happened. Derrick provided valuable input on lighting options and Nigel Schofield and his colleague were instrumental in preparing the plans for the refurbishment of the toilets and obtaining all relevant consents.

There has also been an army of volunteers and supporters, all of whose support is much appreciated.

In terms of next steps, once the toilet facilities have been reconfigured and replaced, the next phase, although this will be subject to securing further funding, will be to try and refurbish the kitchen area, sand the floor in the main hall and repaint the walls. Whilst these further upgrades may take time, we hope that you are able to see the various changes which have been made yourself soon enough.

Community Events

As you can appreciate, there have been limited opportunities for community events in the last year. However, Carol led efforts to develop Covid policies and procedures which enabled the hall to open for periods throughout the year which was fantastic and did allow some events to be held, including the Christmas Wreath Making classes which were a great success.

Separate from the Village Hall, but particularly noteworthy, the Halloween pumpkin trail, bus stop art competition, 12 days of Christmas window display (not to forget the Tynninghame Times) have all been examples of the community coming together which has been pleasing to see and it is hoped others have welcomed too. Thank you to all involved in these and the various other projects helping the community during these times. Hopefully next year we will be able to report on more events in the Village Hall itself!

The key aim/purpose of the Village Hall (as a charity, and so our responsibility as trustees) is to foster community spirit and interaction, and I hope that we are still able to achieve this now and going forward, despite the continued restrictions.

4. Finances

Whilst grants have been secured for most of the improvements, the extent of the changes, and in particular, the significant upgrades to the toilet facilities (combined with reduced income and higher expenses due to Covid) has meant that we have reduced our reserves significantly in the last year. The funds were of course there to pay for the improvements which have been made though and so this is to be expected.

A copy of the latest accounts are attached. However, these do not provide for various recent outgoings (i.e. costs of toilet upgrades) just yet. However, despite such outgoings we do retain reserves to cover at least one year of costs and with the reopening of the Village Hall for commercial events soon (fingers crossed...) and further fundraising, we continue to believe the Village Hall to be on sound financial footing.

5. Looking forward

As noted above, whilst a large proportion of the planned refurbishment works have now been undertaken/are shortly to be undertaken, we will continue fundraising efforts to complete other tasks (such as the refresh of the kitchen and main hall).

As soon as possible, we obviously hope to also resume community events in the Village Hall (and hope to see as many of you as possible at these events).

6. Conclusion

I hope that you find the above update useful. Formal matters such as election of the Committee and approval of 2020 AGM minutes will be completed at the 2021 AGM on 29 April 2021.

If you have any questions/comments in the meantime please do let any of the Committee know.

Thank you again to everyone who supports the Village Hall in whatever form. Although I said the same last year, hopefully this time it will not be long until we see the doors of the Village Hall open again and village life return to normal.

Thank you again for your continued support.

David Clark

Chair, Tynninghame Village Hall

1 April 2021