

**Tynninghame Village Hall**  
**29th April 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Present**

Committee members

David Clark (Chair), Tim Harper (Treasurer), Chris Gunstone (Secretary), Carol Crowther, Shireen Green, Barbara Schofield, Erica Wimbush, Alison McGregor.

Local Residents

Rae Goode, Paul Harris, Morag Cook, Lucy Ackroyd, Alistair and Elizabeth Stobart, Rhys Green, Nigel Schofield, Judy Riley, David Simpson, Christine Mayson, Jackie Oudney, Yvonne Carmichael.

Attendance 9 committee plus 13 residents - Total 22

**Minutes of last AGM**

Alison McGregor proposed that these are accepted, seconded by Erica Wimbush. Unanimously agreed.

**Chair's Report**

David Clark spoke to his written report which had been posted up prior to the meeting and is reproduced below. He emphasised the efforts made particularly by Erica Wimbush in raising funds and getting improvements done in the hall, plus the range of community activities which occurred despite lockdown which Carol Crowther had led on.

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](mailto: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
- 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

### **Hall Refurbishment**

Erica Wimbush spoke to her report which had been posted on the website prior to the meeting and which is reproduced below.

She referred to the refurbishment happening as a result of community consultation 3 years ago. £34,500 has been raised from fundraising and about £15,000 had been provided by village hall funds (proceeds from

events, hall letting and donations).

The next steps would be upgrading the kitchen, redecorating and sanding and polishing the floor.

She thanked the many people who had helped.

#### TYNINGHAME VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE REPORT, AGM 2021 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR HALL REFURBISHMENT 2019

- Improve heating and heat loss/lack of insulation (24%)
- Improve the antiquated and insufficient toilets (17%)
- Upgrade the basic kitchen facilities (18%)
- Improve the lighting (13%)

#### PROGRESS TO DATE

- Secondary glazing was installed by Glaze & Save in 2 phases (2019 and 2020) with funding from TVH funds (£1,200), Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership (£2,000), ELC Community Intervention Fund (£4,797)
  - New lamps and LED lighting were installed in June 2020 by Fraser Russell with Be Green funding (£5,000)
  - Replacement heaters – Six new ATC High radiant heaters were installed by Andy Freeman in June 2020 funded by Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership (£2,900)
  - Roof insulation work was carried out in Feb 2021 by local contractors Andrew Macdonald & Karl Moa while the Hall was empty. Funded by Community Climate Asset Fund (£9,614)
  - A Stage 1 Bat survey was carried out at the end of Jan 2021 before the roof insulation work commenced to find out if bats are present, and if so how best to maintain the Hall as a bat habitat. It was confirmed that long eared bats are definitely present in the upper room above the toilets. Use of this storage space will need to be maintained at current levels and any work carried out in the winter months.
  - Toilet upgrade – Planning permission and building warrant were obtained in Feb 2021. £9216 grant funding has been raised with a further £10,800 contribution from TVHC funds (£20,000 total). Grant Watson was awarded the contract. Work started 8 April with completion expected for the Hall opening on Polling Day, 6 May.
- COMING NEXT – c£10k grant funding application required for the remaining work
- Kitchen upgrade – New dishwasher purchased in Aug 2020 funded by ELC COVID recovery fund; replacement 5 ring electric cooker to be purchased with TVH funds.
  - Other work – repair ceiling, cooker ventilation, renewed storage and work surface
  - Wood floor in main Hall – scrubbed clean by volunteers in July 2020; floor needs to be sanded and sealed properly once building work in toilets is finished
  - Redecoration of main Hall – re-painting the walls
- THANK YOU to all the local volunteers who have contributed to getting this work done
- Erica Wimbush – project lead, fundraising, contractors
  - Nigel Schofield – architectural expertise and advice (toilet upgrade)
  - Richard Atkins and Liz Maclean – architectural advice (roof insulation)
  - Derek Kemp – lighting expertise and advice
  - Carol Crowther and Shireen Green – tender decision (toilet upgrade)
  - Dave Wakefield – liaison with Galbraiths on Hall repairs, liaison with contractors on site

## Financial Report

Tim Harper summarised the content of a written report which had been posted earlier on the website and is reproduced below.

#### Treasurer Report 2020

The Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 have been audited by Douglas Home and Co as per previous years. They reflect a profit of £18,716 (£6,424 in 2019).

In general terms the accounts are healthy, despite a 50% drop in rental income throughout the year due to coronavirus restrictions. This is largely thanks to the

£28,700 in grant monies received towards the hall refurbishment plans.

Total revenue is up considerably (£35,600 up from £20,246.67 in 2019) from 2019 again mainly due to the grants received over the course of the year. Whilst this income has bolstered the year end accounts, the majority of this will be spent during the course of 2021 on the planned refurbishment work. There after we can expect the cash at bank to be significantly less at the end of 2021, although we are maintaining a sensible level of cash reserves if required.

Expenses are also up (£16,900 up from £13,822 in 2019) from 2019 primarily due to the refurbishment work carried out below:

- Phase 2 secondary glazing – £2,925
- Lighting installation - £4,248
- Heating installation - £1,341

In addition to this there were a number of coronavirus related expenses in order to ensure the hall was safe to use, the installation of the commercial dishwasher and electrical work carried out during the course of the year.

Cash at bank at the end of the year of £38,715 reflects a £18,000 increase on 2019.

### **Community including road safety**

Carol Crowther talked to her report which had been posted on the website and is reproduced below. She emphasised that a lot of the activity had been the result of a community engagement survey which had taken place in 2019. The fun activities had been well received. The Bus Shelter is becoming more of a community hub with toys, books, plants and DVDs for borrowing/ exchange, as well as information boards. Carol encouraged everyone to keep an eye out for future events.

#### Community Engagement

It was never anticipated that over a year on we would all still be facing COVID restrictions. The Community however has adapted and adopted new ways of doing things and has continued to support where required.

Following the AGM last year a Community survey was carried out seeking to find out “what was important “to the people who lived in and around Tynninghame. We sent out over a 120 questionnaires and had a good response with the following being the key areas identified :-  
Concerns

- Traffic control:- speeding, lack of pedestrian access, excessive car parking
- Intentions of the Tynninghame Estate:- Cricket pitch

#### Conservation

- Nature /wildlife
- Peace and quiet
- Keeping the village attractive

#### Community Engagement

- Activities for all:-walking, events and spaces for the kids
- Being involved in the community and general well being

From this survey the Community Engagement Group emerged and it has supported a number of activities despite being limited by the COVID restrictions. These were:-

- Open Day event in the hall to feedback on the survey and to promote new ideas and established activities

- Summer Art in the Shelter competition with an environmental theme
- Sunflower growing competition
- Hallowe'en Pumpkin trail
- Rolling book exchange /pass it on repository in the shelter
- Christmas wreath making

- Twelve Days of Christmas window displays

• Candlelit Christmas Eve carols outside the cafe played by Elinor Evans on the clarsach which we hope will be an annual event

- Rabbin Burns display and quiz to celebrate Burns Night
- Easter Nature trail and an art activity

There was also the development and publication of the Tynninghame Times with the 3rd Edition circulated in +me for Easter .This activity is now being taken forward by Margaret

Evans who welcomes and looks forward to the contributions from the Community. At the AGM you will hear about the plans to continue this group. We would love to hear from people who want to actively engage with or just be part of supporting future activities.

#### Committee Sub Groups

We have plans to establish some Committee sub-groups the initial ones being

- Road safety issues
- Cricket pitch management
- Community Engagement
- Village Hall refurbishments

Activity groups and future projects

- Craft and Connect:- despite restrictions we have all kept in touch by “Whats App” swapping ideas, showing off accomplishments and generally providing support and laughs.
- Wednesday Walkers:- we have managed many lovely walks together while adhering to the rules.

Village History:- this small group are currently connecting by email with some members having an ambition to create a Village History Time line for the refurbished hall.

future activities planned:-

- Photographic Competition:-keep your eyes peeled for information in the Bus Shelter and on the Village Hall website. The plan is that the best entries will be used to create a calendar which will be sold to raise funds for the Hall and Community.
- Summer Art Display
- Apple Juicing funevent
- Bird boxes
- Flower Planters

If you would like to get involved with any of these groups and or ac+vi+es please let us know at [tyninghamevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:tyninghamevillagehall@gmail.com)

You can also register interest at the AGM.

Danny Wight spoke to his report which had been posted on the website and is reproduced below. He emphasised that planned improvements were subject to council approval. The council officer had been very helpful and the 20mph speed limit was under continued review. A speed survey is currently underway. In the discussion which followed Jackie Oudney suggested such things as speed cameras and improved signage, Christine Mayson offered to share her experiences of successful signage on the west coast. Rhys Green asked if we could have access to the speed survey.

#### COMMUNITY ACTION ON ROAD SAFETY REPORT AGM 2021

##### A COMMUNITY PRIORITY

In summer 2020 a community survey of the Tynninghame area showed that 82% of local residents are concerned about road traffic and speeding. A traffic survey conducted by local residents provided evidence of the need to reduce traffic speed on the A198 showing that around 60% of the traffic exceeded the 40 mph speed limit.

##### TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

The introduction of 20 mph zones in larger settlements in East Lothian was extended to all villages by the Spaces for People initiative in 2020. However, their funding expired before they could implement this in Tynninghame. So Tynninghame Village Hall Committee secured £4,000 funding from Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership to implement three traffic calming measures to reduce the speed of traffic passing through Tynninghame.

- 1) create a 'gateway' on the B1407 entering from East Linton
- 2) reduce the speed limit on Main Street from 30 mph to 20 mph
- 3) instal rumble strips at the entrance to Tynninghame from East Linton and from each direction on the A198.

In March 2021 an official from the East Lothian Council Roads Department visited the village to discuss the practicality of these measures. In the short term he agreed to commission traffic speed monitoring on Tynninghame Main St and the A198, to install bollards to highlight

the T junction with the A198, to reverse the speed reactive sign on the A198 and to explore options for appropriate road surfacing in the village.

He also agreed to continue to lobby for the widely requested 20 mph zone through the village, although he regards the lack of street lighting in Tynninghame as continuing to pose a potential barrier to Council agreement. He also emphasised the potential value of obstructing sightlines and having simple visual indications of entering a different driving zone, such as distinct road surfacing between the café and Village Hall and speed signs painted on the road.

Daniel Wight, Dunpender Community Councillor

## **Cricket Pitch**

This item was introduced by David Clark, speaking to a paper which had been posted on the website and is reproduced below.

Christine Mayson explained the current estate view on the cricket pitch.

Rhys Green queried the cost of the licence.

Erica Wimbush explained that the licence would have to be legally held by the Committee.

Alistair Stobart suggested delaying for a further year and ways of managing the ground.

Christine Mayson tried to survey opinions as widely as possible within the village and commented that the majority would like it to remain as it is with only three saying that they would like to hand it back.

Erica Wimbush proposed that we agree that the village wants to keep the cricket pitch as it is and that a subcommittee should be created to organise this.

Rhys Green emphasised that the subcommittee should be under the auspices of the Village Hall Committee.

Shireen Green queried how the upkeep and licence would be funded. It was agreed that the subcommittee would look into the various options.

There were no objections to this plan of action.

## **TYNINGHAME VILLAGE HALL CRICKET PITCH REPORT, AGM 2021**

### **FIRST STAGE**

In 2019 the estate made it clear that it would not continue funding the upkeep of the cricket pitch for village use. A Community Consultation meeting was held in the Village Hall in Nov 2019 when it was decided in the short term to keep the field mown using Community donations. Christine Mayson has liaised with individuals in the village trying to build some consensus of how the village would like the cricket pitch to look in the future. These proposals were put to Lord Haddington in 2020.

### **PROGRESS TO DATE**

The estate would prefer to have an agreement (licence) with a legally constituted body to manage the area. The licence is an annual one therefore it can be terminated at any time by Lord Haddington.

### **DECISIONS**

We are asking for the village to decide

a) whether they want to hand responsibility for the upkeep back to Lord Haddington. We do not know for certain what Lord Haddington would do in this case, but the village would have no input;

or

b) whether they wish to retain the cricket pitch as a village resource and be prepared to fund the maintenance and preservation of the area. Management options are strictly limited by Lord Haddington.

If the village do wish to retain the pitch, are they happy for the TVH committee to set up a subgroup (expected to include at least one committee member but open to any other interested people) to raise funds and take the licence agreement (or similar) forward with the estate?

## **Name Change**

This was introduced by David Clark, referring to a paper which had been posted on the website and is reproduced below. The Rhys Green was asked, "Who is community?" David Clark commented that it was about the village as a whole not just the interior of the Village Hall.

Danny Wight commented that "Village Community" might be better wording. There was general discussion about this, with several comments in favour of keeping "Village Hall".

A vote was taken and there were 20 votes for changing the name to "Tynningame Village Hall and Community" with 2 voting for "Tynningame Village Community".

### **Name Change for the Village Hall Committee**

The proposal is to change the name of the SCIO (Scottish sh Charitable Incorporated Organisation) currently known as Tynningame Village Hall Committee to indicate its community remit. We are asking the village to approve a name change to Tynningame Village Hall and Community Committee.

Why a name change? It seems that the name of our charity, Tynningame Village Hall Committee, gives the impression that we are only concerned with running the village hall. Yet our governing documents give the Committee the task of trying not only to run the hall but also provide opportunities for recreational and education for the community. Paragraph 4 of our Constitution gives our charitable purpose as:

1. The advancement of citizenship or community development through the provision of a venue for the local community and others to come together to participate in various activities and events.
2. The advancement of arts, heritage, culture or science by offering a space for local groups to exhibit their crafts.
3. The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the activities are primarily intended through the organisation of classes and groups.

In summary, the purpose is to promote community wellbeing and to create and manage spaces for the community to come together and participate in recreational, cultural, arts, science and heritage activities.

This wider community wellbeing remit is reflected in the AGM agenda which includes not only Village Hall matters, but also community engagement, the development of the cricket pitch field and road safety.

## **Election of Committee**

David Clark stated that he was standing down from the committee. Tim Harper and Chris Gunstone were happy to continue in their current roles as treasurer and secretary respectively. The rest of the committee were prepared to continue. Rhys Green proposed that this was accepted.

Christine Mayson seconded this.

Yvonne Carmichael and Jackie Oudney indicated that they were prepared to stand for the committee and were welcomed.

## **Vote of thanks**

Tim Harper thanked David Clark for being an excellent chairman over the past 3 years.

Erica Wimbush expressed thanks for David Wakefields work as hall keeper.



