

**Tynninghame Village Hall & Community Committee
SCO47531**

Minutes of AGM

Friday 11th April 2025 at 7.30pm at Tynninghame Village Hall

Present: Ian Staples (Chair), John Crowther (Secretary), Tim Harper (Treasurer), Carol Crowther (Trustee), Sophie Wild (Trustee), Rob Hyndman (Trustee), Danny Wight (Dunpender Community Council member & TVHCC Trustee), Adam Stockwell (Trustee), Barbara Schofield, Nigel Schofield, Rhys Green, Shireen Green, George Liston, Marie Liston, Victoria Stockwell, Jenny Vernon, Margaret Evans and Andrew Jones.

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Ian introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Laura Clifford, Christine Copeland, Paul Milne, Chris Gunstone, Morag Gunstone, Morag Cook, Karine McIver, Tony McIver, Rae Goode, Nathan Goode, Ian Arthurs, Lindsay Arthurs, Alastair Stobart and Liz Stobart.

Ian briefly outlined the TVHCC purpose, ie it is primarily about maintaining the Hall and promoting it as a resource for community activities. A wider aim of the committee is to encourage community activities and connection.

Ian introduced the current committee members, himself as Chair, John as Secretary but who is standing down (Ian thanked John for his work and support with running the Committee), Tim as Treasurer, Sophie who now handles communication, bookings and the Website, Rob who advises us on all things to do with data protection and health and safety, Danny who represents Dunpender Community Council, Carol who chairs the Community Engagement Group (CEG), supports the hall volunteers and is also responsible for general hall management and Adam who has recently joined the Committee as a member.

Ian asked that any issues arising not addressed elsewhere on the Agenda be raised under Q&A's at the end of the meeting.

2. Approval of last year's AGM minutes:

The minutes were available on the Hall Website. These were proposed by John Crowther and seconded by Tim Harper.

3. Annual Report:

Ian gave a brief overview of the past year, stating that on the community side we have had a full calendar of events throughout the year. The regular bookings for yoga, country dancing, time to tone have continued. The singing had recently stopped, but it was hoped that this would restart at some point in the near future. There had been seven weddings and 7 children's parties, the Wee Fair has also continued to book the Hall on a fairly regular basis. There had been a number of memorial events and funeral teas, including those for several village residents (Joyce, Margaret, Janet, Mary). It was a privilege to be able to do this.

The painting of the exterior of the Hall had been carried out and this had greatly improved its appearance. However, the front door now requires painting. Other areas currently being considered include whether or not it is possible to install a wood burning stove in the fireplace. This would make the fire more efficient and reduce smoke pollution both inside and outside the Hall. However, it is not clear if this will be possible because of the condition of the chimney. This would require investigation by a structural engineer and East Lothian Council Planning Department approval before any work can be carried out. Ian had already discussed the matter with the heritage conservation department and it had been approved by them. If it is possible, the Committee will then undertake a survey with the community to check how people feel about this, the result of which will determine whether or not the Committee proceeds with the installation.

The Hall floor had required repairs during the past year - the timber is thin as a result of previous sanding/resurfacing repairs. This would be closely monitored and it would continue to be repaired, however, it may need to be replaced completely if it becomes unsafe.

A new cooker had been purchased and installed, thanks to funding raised and donated by Karine from her Bridge lunch.

Sophie had renewed the Website and this was now live. Ian thanked Sophie for her work on this.

A major change which has recently happened is that the Hall Keeper, Eric Martin, has resigned as he has moved house to North Berwick. Ian thanked Eric for his work over the last four years.

For the time being, the committee have decided not to replace Eric to allow consideration to be given to the best way to cover the work he did - the Committee had agreed that it may be better to split the job into a repairs and maintenance function and an events management function. At the moment Sophie has taken on the events management side of things and Carol and John, with the support of Hall Volunteers (who we are always looking for more of), are managing the day to day upkeep issues.

4. Community Heating Project:

Sophie shared news about progress on the community heating network - a centralised energy system for heating multiple buildings, aimed at improving sustainability, efficiency and affordability. A feasibility study has been completed, assessing technical, financial and environmental aspects. The findings are promising: the system could reduce carbon emissions, cut energy costs and provide reliable heating.

Viable locations have been identified, though challenges like funding and regulations remain. Next steps include detailed planning, community engagement and an upcoming information session. The heating group welcomes anyone from the community with relevant skills or interest in helping decarbonise Tynninghame. There is a dedicated email address and a newsletter if people want to sign up for ongoing updates.

5. Community Engagement Group (CEG):

Carol gave a brief overview of the CEG, currently it comprises of mainly women but new volunteers of both sexes are always welcome. In addition to the CEG there are around six or seven Village Hall Volunteers who support the running of the Hall and events.

In the last year there has been a full calendar of activities with all being reviewed positively. A number of things are always a big success and are worth repeating, e.g the children's Halloween event, the Harvest Lunch, the Burns supper and the Carol singing - this will be taken into consideration when the 25/26 events calendar is prepared.

The specific fund raising events in the last year have enabled the purchase of a new cooker, an urn, tablecloths and a bluetooth speaker for the Hall, with two generous donations also being given to the East Lothian Food Bank.

Carol remarked on how good it was to see the bus shelter reinstated and noted that the new Hall noticeboard would shortly be re-erected and that updated information, etc will become more visible.

Carol also reminded all of the need to sign up for the Hall Newsletter.

6. Financial Report:

Tim had provided a statement of the Hall's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024. The net profit in 2024 was £8456 (2023: £9897). There was currently £26,187.49 cash on hand.

7. Dunpender Community Council (DCC):

Danny gave an update on the key issues of relevance and importance to Tyninghame residents.

1. There were plans for the Dunpender area to feed into the East Lothian Council (ELC) under the local place plan (LPP) - the community action and local place plan had now been fully authorised by ELC and, hopefully, the Council would pay attention to it. Councils should give due regard to these.

2. The leaflet showing walks around East Linton would now include walks around Tyninghame.

3. The pavement at the corner of the south side of Tyninghame Main Street and the A198 where there is a culvert is considered a danger and funding from ELC is sought to have this made safe.

4. There is a new bus service (East Coast 120) run by East Lothian Buses - the buses now run hourly.

5. The DCC have three vacancies, if anyone is interested in a role on the DCC they should discuss this with Danny or contact the DCC Chair directly.

8. Election of new TVHC Committee:

In line with the constitution, one third of committee members need to stand down. This year John will stand down and not continue. Ian, Carol and Tim will stand down but are prepared to continue. They as well as the other trustees, Sophie Wild, Rob Hyndman, Adam Stockwell and Danny Wight, were proposed and unanimously voted to continue as committee members for 2025.

9. Q & A's:

At the end of the meeting Ian invited questions from the floor:

Rhys Green raised several matters:

1. Rhys had noticed that the goal posts on the football pitch were broken and offered to repair these - this was agreed.
2. Bats and Wasps - Rhys asked the Committee to make sure that any insecticides used for the extermination of wasps is bat friendly - this was agreed. Ian had tried to reach the Scottish bat people for advice but they had not returned his call. He would pursue this.
3. Bench on the football pitch - this had been agreed sometime ago but as yet it had not been provided - Danny would chase this up.
4. Hedges around cricket field - the Estate had still not had these cut despite having been contacted by Rhys. Rhys thought that the Committee should take on the responsibility of pursuing the matter with the Estate. The Committee did not agree.
5. Swallows in bus shelter - these would soon be back. The birds make a lot of mess - it was suggested that a power cleaner could be used to clean this up. Rhys offered to make a platform for their nests.

There was a question from the floor on whether there had been any outcome from the committee's working group looking into the village's common green areas. Jenny Vernon reported that the area of grass in front of the Cafe (Estate property) was not being cut by Ricky and that she had been cutting this. She had understood from previous discussions with the Estate's representative that villagers who owned the land in front of their property would be responsible for having this cut. However, this does not appear to be the case as Ricky continues to cut this.

There were further questions from the floor regarding hedges, etc and discussion on what is the nature of the Estate's maintenance of conservation of the village. Parking on the Main Street was clearly another issue of great concern for villagers. Ian suggested that, as the committee neither had the resources to pursue these matters nor did it necessarily agree that it should pursue these, interested village residents should perhaps form a group to take matters forward with the Estate or East Lothian Council. A member of this group could perhaps join the TVHCC with a ring fenced remit to take up the issues.

Marie Liston pointed out that if the TVHCC objectives were widened in this way, OSCR would need to be informed/consulted.

Jenny Vernon raised a question regarding the number of weddings annually - this had previously been agreed as six, but more recently this had been increased to eight. It was agreed that the number of weddings annually should be six.

Jenny asked for a clearer indication of the type of events on the calendar, more than the currently applied codes. The Committee agreed that if villagers required more information than provided on the calendar they should contact Sophie directly.

John Crowther, TVHCC Secretary, May 2025

