

## Hutton Community Initiative SCIO

Minutes of the Meeting of Trustees held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm

1. **Present** Chris Miles, Jill Turner, Kate Nutt, Katrina Young, Margaret Taylor, Paul Rogerson, Ken Cain, Jacqui Melling, Angela Wilson

2. **Apologies none**

3. **Declaration of any conflicts of interest – None**

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025** proposer KN, seconded KY

5. **Matters arising from the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (other than those covered on the agenda)**

i. Lighting in main hall – Paul M is continuing to explore options. **Action – Paul M to report back with final prices**

ii. Heating – KN & PR had a meeting with Cool and Easy. Not a positive meeting. The two units in the main hall are considered to be under capacity and this is potentially what is causing the issues which have been reported. Have been asked for a report which has not yet been given.

Nithsdale Plumbing have been approached, and a more positive experience was had, but they have agreed with Cool and Easy's assessment.

At present it is felt the air source heating is the correct type for the hall. The annex heating could be replaced with a smart heating system, but it still has not reached the end of its lifespan.

A new system for the main hall only has been suggested with separate controls which would minimize the impact of the defrosting, ensuring that there was always heating in the hall.

Two new units and their associated equipment and removal of existing units would cost £5885 + VAT. Funding application to be submitted to Crossdykes Community Benefit Fund. Two more quotes are required. **Action – KN:** It was agreed HCI would contribute 10%.

iii. Solar Panels – Cool and Easy approached for quote on half solar panels on ground, half on roof. No quote has been received.

Viking have been approached to provide a quote: **Action PR and KN to meet with them.**

A discussion was held in regard to the efficiency - or not - of having battery storage. Advice to be sought from contractors invited to quote.

It was suggested that a commando plug was installed outside for an industrial generator to be connected to the hall in the event of a major power outage. Similar to Eskdalemuir. **Action PR to discuss with electrician**

Roof – has been checked by a roofer. Waiting for the second roofer to carry out an assessment. **Action PR**

Heating service – the wet heating service will be serviced but agreed not to service the air-to-air system as it is to be replaced. **Action KN**

- iv. Grass cutting – David is starting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April. A community member has offered to cut the areas that David is unable to reach.
- v. Review of Education and Training grant conditions, and guidance has been carried out and updated on the website.
- vi. Hutton Primary School – KN has submitted an expression of interest which should halt the property going on the open market for the moment.
- vii. Planters – no uptake on offer for plants for planters in the village. Feedback suggested that some of the shrubby plants are large and may out compete any annuals. A community member has planted up the planters in front of the hall.
- viii. Policy update is continuing

#### 6. Treasurer's report – see below

#### 7. Boreland Village Hall

- a. Maintenance Task List- KN reported light at entrance needs attention. **Action – KN**
- b. Bookings – see below.

#### 8. Grant Applications

- a. Funding for a Qi gong taster session was approved prior to the meeting by email
- b. Funding for an Easter Family Fun Day was approved prior to the meeting by email

#### 9. Action Plan/Projects

- a. Playpark – JT and a council representative Council had a site visit on 28.03.25. The council no longer adopts parks for maintenance and insurance. They are considering withdrawing support to existing parks. The Board would need to secure funding for on-going maintenance and insurance for any new play equipment.

It has been suggested the Board approach Scott McMeeken, Ward Officer for advice. **Action – KN**

A discussion was held on liability and maintenance. **Action – JT to contact group at Corrie Hall about their play equipment.**

CM is meeting with Muirhall to discuss the playpark and their involvement.

**Action – CM to seek advice from Muirhall about potential funding/involvement of Muirhall in maintenance and insurance.**

- b. Hutton Primary School – Expression of Interest has been submitted, and result is due week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> April. There may need to be some revisions to the constitution.

There was a meeting and site visit to the school. The building appears to be in reasonable condition considering it has been unoccupied for 5 years.

If Expression of Interest is approved a building condition survey and market valuation report will be instructed. Two quotes already received are similar, one is substantially cheaper, but this may be as the company is solely based in D&G. Scope of work for the quotes to be checked to make sure comparable and sufficient. **Action KN and KC.**

## **10. Subgroups Reports**

- a. Social subgroup – Bobby Bingo nights continue to be well supported, raising around £70 - £90 for hall funds. George Trudt's rescheduled talk took place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March and was enjoyed by all who attended. An Easter Family Fun Day has been organised on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- b. Busy Bees subgroup – Litter picking event wasn't supported this time. Individuals have carried on doing small areas. A community member has offered to sort the wooden sign at the front of the hall. JM is considering some other ideas including a bee keeping information event or plant swap.

## **11. DECBG Update**

DECBG – (Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group) allocate funds generated by Ewe Hill 16. Around 12 awards were made in the most recent round of applications. It is one of the only funds which spends all of its money each year. They are undertaking a review after seven years of operation. They will look at where funds have been spent, what has been achieved, what changes are needed etc.

The role of DECBG Community Development Officer is also being reviewed.

**12. Communication** - the weekly email continues to be appreciated by many people in the community and is a useful reminder of what is happening around the village as are the Facebook updates

**13. AOB** – Hall Manager & Community Development Worker is leaving on 29<sup>th</sup> May. They were thanked for their time with HCI. Job description to be reviewed based on feedback received before advertising the role. Action JT and KN

**14. Date of the next Meeting** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 7pm

### **Treasurer's Report 9.4.25**

1. Ewe Hill funding committed but not paid out yet - £973.60 First Aid training. First Aid training now booked for 29.6.25.

2. Water charges exemption application was approved.

3. North Milk Community Council has donated £1334 to HCI towards Hall running costs (1/3 of the £4000 annual payment from ANCBC (Annandale Nithsdale Community Benefit Company) - not included in accounts to 31.3.25.

4. Soup & Blether events are funded by North Milk Community Council (Crossdykes Community Windfarm Community Benefit) for 6 months from December 2024 for 30 people plus hall "hire" costs - full amount granted of £1560.

5. 31st March is the financial year end for HCI. At this date, the following balances were held:

Unrestricted - General: £3,091.53

Unrestricted - Hall £15,542.95

Restricted - Minsca: £263.96

Restricted - Ewe Hill: £48,323.75

Restricted - Crossdykes: £715.00 (grant remaining for soup & blether events)

6. Summary of Hall running costs for 2024-25 and an estimate for 2025-26 circulated on separate document. Minsca funding 24/25 was allocated to hall running costs.

Proposed and agreed that we allocate the remaining Minsca balance held plus payment due this year to Hall running costs for 2025-26. In total c. £3350.

### **Hall Bookings**

|                                               |                |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Mondays weekly                                | 6pm to 7.30pm  | Yoga - Hanna Casement       |
| Tuesdays weekly (till 22 <sup>nd</sup> April) | 1-3pm          | Early Years Scotland        |
| Last Friday monthly                           | 6pm to 9pm     | Social subgroup - Bingo     |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March                  | 1-4pm          | Social Subgroup - talk      |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March              | 7pm to 9pm     | NMCC                        |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March                 | 10.30am to 2pm | Soup & Blether              |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March               | 7 – 9.30pm     | DECBG                       |
| Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March               | 2pm to 5pm     | Private booking             |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April               | 7pm to 9pm     | HCI Board                   |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April                 | 10.30am to 2pm | Soup & Blether              |
| Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> April               | 10am-6pm       | Private booking             |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April                 | 11am-3pm       | Community Easter activities |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April                 | 3pm            | Church service              |

|                                 |               |                                               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May     | 10.30am – 2pm | Soup & Blether                                |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June | 7pm           | HCI Board Meeting                             |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June  | 7pm           | DECBG                                         |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June    | 10.30am – 2pm | Soup & Blether                                |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June    | 9am – 3pm     | First Aid training                            |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July    | 10.30am – 2pm | Soup & Blether                                |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August  | 10am-6pm      | Social group – Teas &<br>Duck Race fundraiser |