

## **MINUTES OF MIDLEM VILLAGE SCIO AGM MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

### **Present:**

*SCIO Trustees:* Tom Angus (Chair), Camilla Fowler (minutes), Jen Angus (Treasurer), David Hope-Jones, Lou Bell

*Also in attendance:* Audrey Power, Anna Cressy, Linda and Richard Robinson, Dave and Sally Bowden, Doug Bell, Lawrence Robertson, Joan McKay and Trish Hunter

**Apologies:** Tony Clay (Trustee), Sara Keith (Trustee), Jane Thoday, Pauline Williamson, Pam Johnson, Ann Angus

### **1. Welcome from the Chair.**

Tom gave a warm welcome to all attending and explained the format and agenda of the meeting.

### **2. AGM Minutes 2023**

Unfortunately, these had not been widely circulated after the last meeting. It was noted that this was a mistake and should have happened. Minutes of AGMs should be circulated and posted, as a minimum 2 weeks, before the next AGM. This will be corrected going forward.

The 2023 minutes were agreed by those who had previously seen them (Trustees) and referred to during the meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising from previous minutes 2023**

None

### **4. Report from Trustees**

[See page 3]

### **5. Midlem SCIO Accounts 2023/24**

Jen confirmed that the 2023/24 accounts have been audited and are all in order. They will be posted on the Midlem website in due course. We are receiving monthly refunds for electricity as previously the charge was more than that used and generated by the Hall's solar panels. Overall funds are healthy showing a total balance of just under £23k with £13k held in a current account and £10k in a savings account.

### **6. Election of Trustees**

- All existing Trustees are happy to stand again
- No new nominations were received
- The existing Trustees were proposed and seconded as below  
David Hope -Jones: Proposed by Tom Angus, seconded by Camilla

Lou Bell: Proposed by Trish Hunter, seconded by Joan McKay  
Tom Angus: Proposed by Audrey Power, seconded by David H-J  
Camilla Fowler: Proposed by Jen Angus, seconded by Sally Bowden  
Jen Angus: Proposed by Camilla Fower, seconded by Trish Hunter  
Sara Keith: Proposed by David H-J, seconded by Tom Angus  
Tony Clay: Proposed by Lawrence Robertson, seconded by Dave Bowden

## 7. **AOCB**

### **Events**

Suggestions were made for the following new events:

**Board Games Night** – suggested by Audrey and agreed to be held on the last Friday of each month from 7-10.00pm. **Audrey and Trish to action**

**Darts Competition** – **Action Trish**

**Murder/mystery night-** **Action Trish**

**National Theatre events showings** – as and when – **David H-J to action**

**Christmas wreath making afternoon** – possible tutor, Lindsey Foster – **Audrey**

**Summer Boules Tournament** – **Action Sally**

Existing events in the diary:

**Bonfire pit one pot Supper** – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Advent windows** – December

**Christmas carols** – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec

**Hogmanay in the Hall**

**Midlem Burns Supper** – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025

### **Hall maintenance / Improvement projects**

Kitchen – options and proposals to made. **Action Jen, Linda & Lou:**

Flooring

Storage area behind stage

External painting of Hall

### **Welcome pack for new villagers** – **Action Joan**

**Oak tree by Smiddy** – agreed needs to be moved from its current position before it gets bigger. Obvious place is on the Midlem Common land. **Action Trish**

**MIDLEM VILLAGE HALL SCIO**  
**Trustees Report March 2023 – March 2024**

2023-24 was another successful year for the Midlem Village Hall SCIO, with the hall in regular use, providing an invaluable space for the local and surrounding community.

The Board of Trustees worked on a voluntary basis through 2023-24 to deliver against the organisation's purpose:

*“To provide and maintain Midlem Village Hall and common lands and to organise activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of Midlem and environs in the Scottish Borders, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, for recreation, leisure and educational purposes of all kinds with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.”*

**Community events/use:**

The hall was in regular use through 2023-24 by the Midlem community, with key events including:

- Coronation picnic: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Midlem Flower Show and BBQ: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023:
- Christmas Carols: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023
- Hogmanay: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.
- Burns Night: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The local community were also an active part of each of the regular hall hires.

**Hall hire:**

The Village Hall has been well used this year by a wide variety of users.

The village has had a weekly Pop-In Coffee Morning and a monthly Art and Craft Group, which has helped bring together the local community..

Regular weekly users have included a number of small groups centred on fitness and education who have drawn members from the local community and wider area. This has included: Yoga, Pilates, Fitsteps, Ballet, Dance, Tap, Home Education.

Monthly groups have focussed on bringing together local people for social interaction and craft skills, including: the Scottish Women's Institute, Art and Craft Group, Pop In Coffee Morning.

Regular, but not monthly groups, have included: the Quilt Group, LAMCC, Langhope Rig Panel, and Midlem Village Hall Committee.

One-off hirers of the hall have included: 3 fund raising charity events, 1 weekend local wedding, a weekend scouts camp, 1 hen party, 2 children's parties, 2 adult birthday parties, 1 farewell party, 2 first aid courses, and 1 evening event of music entertainment.

There has also been a steady demand for hire of the hall for children's parties and other local social gatherings.

### **Maintenance and improvements:**

At each of its meetings, the Village Hall Board has considered the maintenance of the hall, in line with its responsibilities. Where maintenance issues have arisen, they have been swiftly addressed, for example: fixing the electrics, repairing the disabled toilets, fixing a leak to the store roof, and installing air circulation to prevent damp build-up.

There continues to be an aspiration to re-develop the bar area in the hall, to give more space to work during events. This will be further considered in 2024-25.

The Board ensures the hall continues to have appropriate insurance cover.

### **Governance and administration:**

At the Autumn 2023 AGM, in addition to new members joining, a number of long-standing Trustees stood down from the Board (including the Chair, Joan McKay). Given pressures on everyone's time, it was agreed that the Board would have a rotating Chair and this has worked well: spreading out the responsibilities more equitably across the Board.

The Board has looked to streamline some of its functions to make more time-efficient, with, for example, online event booking rather than selling physical tickets door-to-door.

The Village Hall Board met every 1-2 months through 2023-24, planning community events, managing the hall its bookings and maintenance, and considering wider village affairs.

The Board has developed a basic website as a way to communicate news and information about hall hire: [www.midlem.com](http://www.midlem.com).

### **Other Village Developments:**

The Village Hall SCIO has helped represent the community in related matters, for example:

- **Forestry:** The Hall was the hub for a local consultation around the development of new commercial forestry in the area, with the Board encouraging the community to feed in. Specific concessions were made in response to the views from the community (for example, increasing guaranteed local access) and, later in the year, members of the VH Board expressed specific concerns which went

on to be aired at the Convention of the South of Scotland, with two Cabinet Ministers.

- Playpark: Scottish Borders Council was informed when the Midlem playpark needed maintenance work and this was swiftly undertaken, with the playpark now in a good state of repair.
- Smiddy: In 2023-34 a working group was established of both Trustees and wider SCIO Members, looking at the possibility of a community asset transfer for the old Smiddy on the village green. There was an informal consultation on ideas for its possible future community use and the working group began the process at possible funding sources.
- Community Council: At least one Village Hall trustee has remained a member of the Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk and Midlem Community Council, to allow local issues to be fed up and information fed down.

The work and developments documented here have been possible because of the commitment and hard work of many members of the Midlem community, both on the Board and wider members. It is a privilege to live in such a lovely village with such a strong sense of community.

We would like to thank all those who helped make 2023-24 another successful year.