

Carlops Village Centre AGM 10th May – Chair's Report

Minutes of 2023 AGM

Chair's report

Financial report, including Accounts and Fees

Election/re-election of Charity Trustees Discussion:

Hall availability, upkeep, and future activities

It is a pleasure to welcome you all here, in person and online,

Sadly, while this report is positive it comes with a long-term warning for the future of the hall. We are blessed with an excellent accountant and because of this we have been made aware of the financial situation early enough to act now. We will come back to this and focus first on the last year.

Carlops Village Centre is now fully transferred over and now identifies as a SCIO. This legal change fundamentally gives the members of the committee and trustee a greater level of protection from litigation, where before they were personally liable for costs, the Carlops Village Centre now has a legal personality and can undertake transactions, own property and assets in its own right, where before all assets were owned by the trustees and committee members. Other benefits from the transfer relate to potential funding options when available.

Throughout the winter months, we had regular hires 5 nights a week, as well as less frequent ones and single events like parties and group hires. One good example is the Pentland Film Society, which had an excellent mixture of films and an overall increase in viewership.

The regular events in the hall were put on hold over the winter while the film company stepped in on a long-term hire of the hall. This earned a nice income. The Carlops Village Church stepped in to accommodate regular hall events, and for that, we are very thankful.

The events on the yellow card seemed to go without a hitch, the first of these was the Rural Products Show and it was lovely to see the hall filled with the products of our kitchens, gardens, and creativity again.

Miss Lindsay's Secret was a great play with rarely heard music.

The Hogmanay & ceilidh were an excellent night as always, and I got to go to my first real Burns' Supper. The latter was very well attended, with excellent renditions of Burns's work.

We have also had excellent entertainment of all varieties from our friends and neighbours, all of whom deserve thanks, not only for the pleasure they have given and time they have invested but also for their generosity to both the hall and other

charities. We have been treated to fantastic talent from within and outside the village. We are lucky to have such amazing people in our community.

One of the discussions we have had repeatedly at committee meetings is the need to provide more informal opportunities to get together. This triggered the monthly potluck suppers – with participants bringing something to eat and drink, and many hands on the tidy-up, it is an easy, inexpensive way to have an evening in good company. A group of Carlops Village Centre members have started a pub night, the first was a great night. I hope they carry on with this endeavour. We are on the lookout for more ideas like this, for adults, children, and families. The hall is an amazing resource for the community, and it is currently under used.

So the hall is, as always, available for short-term and short-notice hires if you need a bit of extra space for something.

This just leaves thanks to all who have given their time and expertise to make this possible, those who attend events and lend a hand. Special thanks go to Hannah who has stepped down as Chair but hopefully staying on the committee for a wee while to pass on here knowledge and advice.

We always have room for volunteers on the committee, and would welcome new members who could bring fresh ideas and vigour to planning the years ahead.

So the doom and gloom part of the report:

Financially the hall this year has been bolstered by the film hire, but in general round numbers, the running cost and insurance for the hall comes in at £7000 a year. Without the film hire, the average annual income from the hall is only £5000. We have reserves in the bank that will cover us for a few years, but we are now in a position where we will be eating into our cash reserves year on year. While a shortfall of £2000 seems a lot, it is two or more regular weekly hires in the hall, or a bunch of monthly hires.

The hall is simply not utilised enough to cover this cost.

The committee have discussed this and some ideas are in play, such as advertising the space out with the village for groups to hire and sadly we will have to start charging for some community events that were free before either by ticket or donations. Such as Hogmanay, and potluck night. We have been approached already by a few groups who would be willing to put on a charitable event, with the entry fee donated to the hall's running cost.

The target we want to reach is to increase the hall revenue to £8000 a year minimum, to cover the cost and increase the bank balance so we can carry on investing in the building and services.