Cousland Village Hall Association Management Committee (CVHAMC) meeting on 1 June 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Welcome

The Chair warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees

CVHAMC members	Stewart Buchan (Chair); Gordon Brown (Secretary); Tom Morrow (Treasurer); Gordon Dunn; Helen Wareing; Sylv Lambie; Andrew McGovern; Douglas Bolton; Norrie Brown
Others in attendance	Mairghread Ellis
Apologies received	Doug Whyte; Gillian Mackenzie
Conflicts of interest	None intimated.

Topic	Discussion	Action agreed
Governance		
Regulatory, constitutional and operational matters	All governance documentation is available to CVHA members via the CVHA tab on the Cousland Village website www.couslandvillage.co.uk and in the green CVHA folder, by the entrance in the hall.	All members encouraged to read the OSCR guidance for charity trustees
Financial Report	The Treasurer reported that: Bank balance is £9,410.27; Cash in hand amounts to £146.79. The May bank statement shows: Normal expenses for May were £721.20 (bar outgoings, café outgoings, TV licence, electricity, window cleaning etc). Income (unrestricted) for May was £1029.41 (bar takings, café takings, hall rentals etc). An additional and unexpected expense was £400 for a broken window beside the front door of the hall.	
	Further discussion about a potential community buy-out of the village hall by CVHA, will take place at a future meeting.	HW to continue her desk research
Grant-funded projects update (restricted funds)	*Corra Foundation "Boost" funding* Excellent progress had been made with all projects and planned projects. The following further expenditures are to be made: New electronic lock and new main door for the hall (postponed until after Gala Day).	GB and TM to update spreadsheet of expenditures
	Midlothian Council "Wellbeing Year 5" funding A varied programme of wellbeing events, up to April 2027, has been shared in The Cousland Courier. All funds now allocated.	GB to evaluate impact of spends and activities for reporting purposes
Invited Guests		
	There were no invited guests	
CVHA member's issues (raised since last meeting):		
	No issues were raised.	
Previous minutes		
Corrections	None	
Approval	Proposed by DB; Seconded by GD	

Matters arising	All matters are covered under the headings below.	
Hall maintenance and improvement reports		
Catering facility	The equipment trolley has been ordered and we have been notified it should be back in stock soon.	GD to chase
Bar facility	An internal roller blind is still to be fitted behind the grille. POST MEETING NOTE: blind is in place and looks great (screening all bar stock)	TM to seek help, if required
Patio area	The boundary fencing on our northern neighbours' property is completed. Plans for the temporary canopy are in place and it is hoped it will be ready for Gala Day. There was a discussion of planting options for the bed between the bench and our neighbours' new fence.	SB to progress
Defibrillator	Regularly checked by SB. All is working as it should.	
Other issues	The new fire extinguisher compliance certificate is displayed. Intumescent strips are now fitted to the kitchen fire-door. New emergency lights are to be fitted soon and the "mood lighting" controller fixed in an accessible position. The old, coloured spotlights from the hall may be used to provide "mood lighting" at the Gala Day barbecue. The emergency exit near the bar requires some refurbishment. The storage rooms need to be sorted out and this will be done when shelving in the new shed is completed. New keys for the shed have been purchased.	GD and DB to finalise works with DS
Hall bookings report		
Local groups	Film Club have booked for their winter season of 6 films.	
Other bookings	Feedback from all private renters continues to be very positive. Bookings for June are as follows (at the moment): Two birthday parties and a wedding. There have been three cancellations for upcoming private party bookings.	GB to liaise with hall users and event organisers
Events in CVHA Calendar		
Review of past events	The May community café was very successful, but there were no other events arranged by CVHA.	
Planned events	A busy social calendar is planned through to the end of the financial year: Jazz night on 6 June is going ahead as planned. A new Facebook post to go up. If Scotland men's football team get through the World Cup group stages, there may be some Scotland matches shown on the big screen in the hall. To be discussed further following consultation with hall neighbours. A short-walk, talk and a cuppa session is planned for 8 August (to be advertised in The Cousland Courier and at the August community cafe). Gala Day and Barbecue in August (permissions and licences are in place and main tasks scoped out. We plan to get a team of folk together in mid-June, following a recruitment exercise at the June community cafe; publicity plan emerging). Whisky Tasting on 12 September (ticket pricing etc confirmed with BL). A wild-flower workshop is to be finalised. A Country and Western Night with a Line-Dancing workshop in October (all arrangements are in hand with LB, TB and KF). The dates of a family film night in November and a Christmas Afternoon Tea in mid-December are still to be decided. Hogmanay at the Hall on 31 December will start later this year. Three Wellbeing Social Evenings are planned for January, February and March 2027. A further short-walk, talk and a cuppa is planned for 17 April.	DB to recruit folk for Gala Day tasks HW to draft publicity leaflet for Gala Day GB to contact CCP

	All of these will be advertised in the next Cousland Courier.	
Engagement (Communications)		
Website	It is working well. CVHAMC members were again encouraged to look at the village website (Cousland Village) regularly and to suggest further improvements. Facebook event posts now appear there too.	
Facebook page	Event notifications are being posted regularly and are drawn through onto the website above.	TM to monitor posts
Noticeboards and signs	Operating very effectively.	
The Cousland Courier	Thought to be working very effectively. The next deadline for copy is 7 July. Material for submission will need to be agreed at our next meeting. One member reported that the Cousland Courier wasn't read in detail by folk.	GB to submit agreed copy
Other channels	The WhatsApp group "CVHAMC and Friends" continues to be used by lots of folk. One member asked the committee to think about additional communication methods that could be considered as not everyone is in the WhatsApp group or in a position to receive digital communications. A solution to this was not obvious and the matter remains open to suggestions. Leaflets on tables at the café work well for some villagers and village events.	
Collaborative work with or support for other village groups		
Cousland Conservation Group	A date has still to be notified for the wildflower practical workshop. A planting plan has been submitted to Midlothian Council for the refurbished Play Park at Hillside Cottages. Plants, if approved, will be bought with the gift from the former village playgroup. The planters on the corner of Hadfast Road and Hillside Cottages have been refreshed for the summer. Compliments have been posted on social media channels. It would be wonderful if the group were also able to look after the large planter at the drop-off point outside the village hall.	
Petanque Group	A new gazebo has been purchased and it will be stored in the secure shed at the hall. A super new wooden sign has been crafted and donated by friends from Haddington Petanque Club who regularly visit the Cousland piste.	
Information and issues exchange with Tynewater Community Council (TCC)		
Updates from TCC	TCC still needs new members, especially a Secretary. Next meeting will be in person on 16 June at 7.00pm in Pathhead Pavilion. Anyone wishing to participate should contact GB, ME or TM for details. All Cousland issues with roads etc are raised repeatedly at TCC meetings and Midlothian Transport Roads and Paths (MTRaP) meetings until they are resolved. New issues should be brought to the attention of representatives. Police reported they are making some, but nowhere near enough, progress in dealing with the epidemic of gangs of young men behaving in an anti-social manner across Midlothian communities. A few motorised bikes and scooters have been confiscated.	Anyone interested should speak to ME, TM or GB for further information
Reporting of issues to TCC	Solving such anti-social behaviour issues is usually intelligence-led and so folk should alert police to the addresses of any known perpetrators.	
AOCB		

New secure shed	Arrangements for key access to the new shed were agreed. We will reuse the current key-safe when new front door is fitted to the hall.	GD to save the keysafe

Date(s) of our next meeting(s)

CVHAMC	The next meeting will be on Monday 6 July 2026 at 1900 in the Village Hall. It is hoped all committee members will be able to attend. The meeting is open to any member of CVHA.	Secretary to send papers one week in advance

Conclusion

The Chair thanked everyone for their valued contributions. The meeting finished at 2105.