Cousland Village Hall Association Management Committee (CVHAMC) meeting on 6 April 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; Sylv Lambie; Andrew McGovern; Doug Whyte; Douglas Bolton; Norrie Brown
Others in attendance	None
Apologies received	Gill Mackenzie; Helen Wareing
Conflicts of interest	None intimated.

Topic	Discussion	Action agreed
Governance		
Regulatory, constitutional and operational matters	CVHA's annual return to OSCR has been completed online, following final formatting of the charity's accounts for the 2025 financial year. All governance documentation is available to CVHA members via the CVHA tab on the Cousland Village website www.couslandvillage.co.uk.	All to read OSCR trustee duties information and the constitution
Financial Report	The Treasurer reported that: Bank balance is £10,103.29 Cash in hand is £615.20 The monthly bank statement for March showed: Income (unrestricted) for March was £835.28 (bar takings, café takings, hall rentals etc). Expenditure (unrestricted) for March was £629.99 (bar outgoings, café outgoings, TV licence, electricity, window cleaning etc). TM initiated a discussion about the possibility of a community buy-out of the hall by CVHA, with help from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) to secure access to a hall for our community in the long term. SLF would likely fund up to 95% of the agreed value of the asset. He reported that the landowner had been approached, informally, to see if he was open to the idea of a community buy-out and he was and there had been some discussion re the potential value of the hall and grounds. This was shared with the committee. It was all very speculative. Tom had papers showing a clear "route-map" of the whole community buy-out process. It was emphasised that this is the first time this has been raised for discussion at CVHAMC and that wider community support is also needed. Whatever CVHAMC does, needs to have the support of CVHA members in general. There were major financial and fundraising implications for CVHA, even with SLF support. A key question asked was "Why do we need to consider this, is a more secure, long-term lease not just as effective?". This was explored a little, but a full consideration of pros and cons of both ways forward is needed. It was noted that there was a booklet about the history of the hall which raised interesting questions about ownership of the building. Further discussion is needed and it was agreed no further actions would be taken to progress matters one way or another. DW agreed to examine our existing lease and lease variation arrangements and to check out the Land Registry Title Sheet for the hall.	DB to send copy of booklet to DW. TM and GB to send copies of current lease materials to DW
Grant-funded projects update (restricted funds)	*Corra Foundation "Boost" funding* Excellent progress had been made with the lighting projects approved to date. The committee approved the following further expenditures: Fencing at patio area; New electronic lock and new main door for the hall.	Treasurer and project leads to

	It is likely there will be a request for some equipment for the Youth Club.	progress approved expenditures
	Midlothian Council "Wellbeing Year 5" funding A consultation meeting was held on 12 March at 7.00pm in the hall. All ideas were included in a questionnaire to café participants on 4 April which asked people to prioritise three events they would support. All ideas drew support. See Planned Events, below, for details of supported activities to come.	GB to contact organisers of events and oversee the programme delivery
	Midlothian "Wellbeing Sports" funding The application was not successful.	
	Caremark small grants funding An application to support upgrading of the disabled access ramp at the hall is under consideration.	GD to progress
Invited Guests		
	There were no invited guests	
CVHA member's issues (raised since last meeting):		
"Memorial" to mark Robin Donald's contributions to CVHA over many years	DB had been in further brief conversation with Robin's close family.	DB to contact Kathleen Donald for a fuller discussion
Previous minutes		
Corrections	None	
Approval	Proposed by DB; Seconded by SL	
Matters arising	All matters are covered under the headings below.	
Hall maintenance and improvement reports		
Catering facility	New signs have been added above switches for the freezer and fridge to help prevent accidental switching off.	
Bar facility	An internal roller blind and hanging an LED "Bar" sign are still to be fitted.	TM to seek help, if required
Defibrillator	Regularly checked by SB. All is working as it should.	
Other issues	The "Calendar of Compliance" checklist of tasks for the committee to address is still under development.	GD and DB to finalise
	The problems of the external door being left unlocked on occasion will be addressed by the new lock and door, approved earlier. All hall users will be encouraged to be more vigilant meantime. The key safe code will be changed tomorrow and shared on a need-to-know basis.	GB to alert appropriate folk
	Legionella testing is scheduled for 13 April. Fire extinguisher checks are due soon.	
	The new secure storage shed has been purchased, and delivery is expected in May. Paul Henry has kindly volunteered to dismantle and dispose of the old shed. This was unanimously accepted.	TM to alert PH when new shed is delivered
	GD is currently exploring a possible source of funding for the disabled access ramp upgrade. The old, coloured spotlights from the hall are suitable for outside use and can be used to provide "mood lighting" at events such as the Gala Day barbeque. Patio area work progressing.	
Hall bookings report		
Local groups	No additional bookings. Regular group bookings at present comprise 2 weekly ones, 1 fortnightly and 1 quarterly.	
Private bookings	Feedback from all private renters continues to be very positive. There are no private bookings for April, so far.	
Events in CVHA Calendar		

Review of past events	The April community café was very successful. Very busy with many first-time attendees. Over £400 was taken in, before expenses. The second big-screen TV Rugby viewing of the year was hugely enjoyed by all who attended, despite the scoreline. The Social Evening on 21st was well-supported and attendees really enjoyed the camaraderie and conversation. A good profit was made from bar sales. The "Annual Spring-Clean" on Saturday 28 March, went really well. 30 people participated and the catering (filled rolls, soup, crusty bread, tea and coffee and sweet treats) was appreciated.	
Planned events	We are going to have a busy social calendar: There's our third Wellbeing Social Night coming up on 25 April; The next community café is on Saturday 2 May. (Sunflower seedlings will be handed out there to folk wishing to enter the growing competition organised by the Cousland Conservation Group. Winners will be announced at Gala Day.); There's a Swingin' Jazz Night on 6 June; The Gala Day (22 August) arrangements are progressing; There's a Whisky Tasting being organised for September; We hope there will be a Comedy Night in October; And there will be Hogmanay at the Hall on 31 December. Plus, following extensive consultations, the committee has approved spending of the remaining "wellbeing funds" to put on the following activities (provided we can get folk to organise them!): Big-screen sporting events viewings over the summer; Cousland Conservation Group "wildflower, practical-workshop" and refreshments in the late summer; Short-walk, talk and a cuppa events in autumn and spring; Line dancing taster session in the autumn; Majority Group talks (two that are open to everyone) over the winter months; Family Film Night in late November; Christmas afternoon tea; Three Social Evenings (some with a quiz or other activity mid-evening) in January February and March. And there are more ideas floating around: Music Night (share your favourite tracks); Wine and Cheese Night etc. Watch this space. The hall will also be hosting events organised by other local groups for their members. The hall's going to be busy.	GB to progress with potential organisers in priority order until the funds run out
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.	TM to implement the changes agreed
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	Working very effectively. It was felt a short item could be submitted re the vacancy for another CVHAMC member, especially someone with IT/website skills.	Submit article by 8 April Submit copy re Gala Day and autumn events ahead of next deadline
Other channels	The WhatsApp group "CVHAMC and Friends" continues to be used very effectively by lots of folk. 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	SL reported the group had joined the Midlothian Climate Action Network. The group's main focus for action will be the swing park area and the rose-growing area by the boundary wall of the swing park, beside the road. Some group	SL to accept kind offer of day lillies for the planter

	members have reported further areas needing council attention in and around the swing park - a new litter bin to replace the corroded one, levelling the soft play surface in the swing area, rebuilding the brick path at the entrance to the swing park and removal of the posts set in concrete which used to display the name of the street. Some of this work is now ongoing. The former Playgroup has kindly donated money to be spent on plants for the swing park area. The group has also had a generous donation of day-lilies and they wondered if CVHAMC would like some for the planter at the entrance to the village hall.	
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 21 April at 7.00pm in Pathhead. Anyone wishing to participate should contact GB for details.	Anyone interested should speak to ME, TM or GB for further information
Reporting of issues to TCC	All Cousland resident issues, are reported regularly. They remain as "active" items until they are resolved. All outstanding matters were raised again: Chapel Bank fence missing; Hadfast Road lighting faults; A6124 overgrown pavement at the quarry bends.	Secretary to raise unresolved issues again with TCC.
AOCB		
	No matters were raised.	
Date(s) of our next meeting(s)		
CVHAMC	The next meeting will be on Monday 4 May 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 2050.		