

Tarland Welfare Trust

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

6th September 2023

Present: Matt Hare (Zoom), Sandy Cooper, David Currie, Nigel Healey, David Hirst, Duncan Lockerbie

Apologies: Ruth MacKenzie, Gordon Ross

1. Minutes of AGM on 16th September 2021 approved by David Hirst; seconded by Duncan Lockerbie

2. **Matters Arising from minutes:**

No matters arising.

3. **Chair's report:**

The past 12 months have been ones of experimentation, refurbishment, supporting community resilience planning and managing change in hall bookings.

Experimentation came in the form of the trustees organising music and theatrical events for the community in order to increase hall income as well as hall usage. We worked with Scotland on Tour to welcome bands as well as children's theatre to Tarland. This was not without a good share of hard work from the trustees, plenty of problem solving and lots of fun for those who attended. We have learned from the experience, made a modest profit and are considering doing this again in the coming year, possibly aiming for Friday night events in order to increase attendance figures.

These events were in addition to profits made, and community fun had, from the Hogmanay ceilidh at the end of 2022, and the return of a back-to-normal-again, successful Cello Week.

Significant refurbishment of the small hall was made possible thanks to the trustees putting in a successful bid for a slice of the participatory budget organised by NESCAN. This allowed us to insulate the small hall ceiling which we hope shall have a positive impact on reducing our energy costs.

The Hall continues to be active at the heart of the community. Last year we were asked by the community council to support community resilience planning by considering options for adapting the hall to become a community resilience hub in times of emergency of the type we experienced during Storm Arwen.

Considerations are ongoing, but it is expected that the setting up of both an information area in the hall during emergencies and an emergency power generator will be planned for this coming year.

In terms of managing change in hall bookings, although we lost the Brownies (they decided not to return to the hall post pandemic in order to make use of school facilities) we gained the enormously popular Lego club, and there is expectation that a Film Club will return to the Hall shortly. More good news is that TADS will also be back in the hall rehearsing for 2023-2024, in the expectation of performing, in February 2024, the first panto to be held in Tarland since before the pandemic.

Finally, it would be remiss of my report not to thank the trustees for all the countless hours of voluntary work they have invested in supporting our community's hall. This hard work, together with that of Carol who is responsible for cleaning the hall, has allowed the activities that can be offered to the community to expand despite these difficult post-covid times.

4. **Annual Accounts:** The treasurer gave an update on the Hall's financial position. Whilst generally on the positive side, there was considerable concern about the Energy costs.
5. **Election of Trustees:** All current trustees were willing to continue and existing positions remained. Matt Hare continues as Chairman, Sandy Cooper as Secretary, Dave Hirst as Treasurer.
6. **Hall Development:** Small Hall & kitchen upgrading now complete, we look forward to the unveiling of the mural on Small Hall wall during the Food and Music Festival. Maintenance issues are a constant drain on resources. We continue to be receptive on issues regarding the Resilience Plan.
7. **Resolutions:** There were no resolutions from the community.
8. **AOCB:** No matters relating to the AGM were discussed.
9. The meeting closed at 20:30 and a committee meeting took place.