

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Cardona Village Association

28th February 2020, Cardrona Village Hall

There were 16 attendees of which all were CVA members, plus 5 proxies.

Chair Report: J Sharp

Thank you all for coming. I'm John Sharp & I'm currently acting as chairperson. I have with me the outgoing treasurer, Robin Waddell and ** introduce everyone **

We're going to present a quick summary of the CVA activity over the last year, including the finances & then deal with matters arising, electing the committee & plans for the coming year. But first we have a number of apologies – which I have a list of here & I would like to invite anyone to second the minutes from the last AGM.

Apologies

Nigel & Janice Rutherford

George Tucker

Sadly this is the last CVA meeting that Robin will be attending as treasurer & committee member – he's held this position for around 4 years & has been generous enough to volunteer his time at handling the finances & bookings – quite a lot of work over the years. On behalf of the committee & the CVA, I'd like to extend a massive thank you to Robin for all he's done! Ian Nimmo has graciously volunteered to handle finances as a stop-gap treasurer until a permanent treasurer can be found, so we're very grateful to him for that.

We have added to the committee resource since the last AGM & this is really welcome – it allows us to spread the load a little better, especially as many on the committee work full time & have families to look after, so time is a precious commodity & not always freely available. We're grateful for the time that the committee & other volunteers have donated & we certainly do not take it for granted. We're definitely on the lookout for more people to help with the committee, so any volunteers would be very welcome.

Looking back over the year, it was stated at the last AGM that 2019 would be run in 'maintenance mode' due to the small amount of time available from the committee. That situation did improve with the additional volunteers, so we were able to do a little more including the summer fair, which was a big success as well as some maintenance in & around the hall, specifically windows, doors, plumbing & electrics as well as loose paving outside the hall.

Looking forward we have plans for hall improvements, specifically painting the exterior woodwork & addressing storage needs, both of which we were not able to do in 2019 but which we hope to achieve this year. Funds are available to do this, but we have active & promising enquiries going on to obtain external funds for this work.

In other areas we have had a very encouraging meeting with the new GM at the Macdonald Hotel with a view to establishing stronger & more mutually beneficial links between the hotel & the village in general. Hopefully this, along with some very worthwhile environmental initiatives will hopefully enhance community spirit & make Cardrona an even better place to live.

With regard to communications, we're looking to modernise the newsletters & website & to explore any ways, electronically & otherwise in which we can reach more people in the village.

Thank you – I'll pass you on to Robin who will go through the 2019 finances.

Treasurer Report: R Waddell

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, following a deficit of £598 for previous financial year, it is pleasing to report that the year to 31/12/2018, the year to 31/12/19 has returned a surplus of £2,218. It is also worthy of note that this is well in advance of our budgeted deficit of £425.

The accounts have been made available on our website prior to this meeting and I expect many have not reviewed in depth so please let me go over the main points.

- The latest financial year benefited from the fact that cheques totalling £467, lodged with the bank in mid-December 2018, went missing in transit and when this matter was resolved this amount was credited to the most recent financial year.
- We normally claim gift aid a year in arrears. Due to a mix-up in 2018 we claimed the 2018 year rather than the 2017 year. To correct this, we claimed the 2017 year, but as you may recall the subscription rate, and so income was greater in 2017. This led to a boost in gift aid revenues in 2019
- The reducing number of subscribers continues to be a concern having dropped from 138 to 129.
- Revenues from Hall lets were up by £900, due partly to increased Hall use but also boosted by the income from the 2018 lost cheques.
- After running no events at all in 2018 there were 3 events run last year, which all made a profit and brought a total surplus of around £300. Thank you to all who assisted in running these.
- On the expenditure side the big saving has been on maintenance where we budgeted £1200 but in fact only spent £327. – more on that shortly

Looking forward the CVA is, financial in a strong position – with over £20,000 in the bank

- Subscription level has yet to be debate and we would very much like to this number increase however for now we have budgeted on an “as you are” situation.
- With regarding to collection of subscriptions, this is a time-consuming task and I

would be very grateful if members would set up direct debits to cover this. That said, as with those that pay by bank transfer, please return your gift aid forms in any case. These allow us to recover a further 25% from HMRC – and its not often you get something from the tax man for nothing!!

Qu: It was asked if the gift aid form needs to be filled in annually

Ans: this was confirmed but needs to be checked as it was pointed out this isn't necessary for most charities

Qu: Do we chase those who don't fill in the gift aid forms

Ans: Not typically but we do sometimes (mainly if we have an email address)

Qu: Can Gift Aid form be provided electronically

Ans: yes provided appropriate wording

Qu: Is the reduction in subscriptions due to people who previously paid not paying or due to people moving to the village

Ans: It is a mixture, there is a reasonable turnaround of people moving out and in, in the region of 30 houses a year and they tend to be less bought into the village community. Street reps used to be good for encouraging this but this is not something we have been able to use for a while (due to lack of volunteers)

Qu: Should we not focus on differentiating between those who should pay based on title deeds and the rest of the village

Ans: This is an approach the current committee has followed since we took over. It is a mixed bad and an unfair system and would much prefer to take a whole village approach. It is not a simple problem and we are looking at various things to encourage people to join, it is helped by keeping the subscription to a reasonable level, especially when we have such a healthy bank balance.

Qu: Do people still get a welcome pack

Ans: This is certainly our aim but it doesn't always happen if we aren't aware a house has changed hands, it is available on the CVA website.

- The Hall is now 20 years old and although in generally good shape is beginning to show some wear and tear. In particular the exterior paintwork is in need of repainting and this will not be a cheap task.

- You may have noted that income from the SBC insurance grant has dropped from £600 to £550. There have been changes made to this fund and as of this year funding will only be available for specific projects and not a general insurance "rebate" as it

has been in the past.

- This will require a project to be identified and someone to manage the application process. It is also conceivable that our healthy financial position, particularly when viewed against many other Peeblesshire halls may count against us in the application process.
- One potential project may be the replacement of the interior lights of the hall with LED panels. Not only would this bring energy efficiencies but would reduce the safety risks of frequent tube replacements.

On a very positive note 2020 got off to a good start with a donation of £50 from the group that hired the hall on Hogmanay, closely followed by a further donation of £255 following the winding up of the Cardrona Over 50's club

Bearing all of that in mind that your committee has prepared a budget which allows for a spend of £3000 on maintenance and returns an annual deficit of £2,220, which is almost exactly the same as this year's profit.

Achieving that outcome does depend on events continuing to run – which requires volunteers to help run them, and good in fact be much better if specific fund raising was undertaken

Finally, as you may be aware I am standing down as treasurer and booking secretary and I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their support over the last few years and you all for contributing via subscriptions and attendance at events. Thanks also go to Neil Hibbert for examining and confirming our accounts.

Thank you.

Subscription level (Committee membership?)

Committee recommended to maintain the subscription level at the current £30. This was put to a vote with unanimous support.

We are determined to make the proceedings a bit more interactive and transparent, due to lack of resource mainly we haven't managed to openly encourage people to participate in the regular CVA meetings, with that in mind if anybody has something they would like to bring up at the AGM that is great but for more general stuff it may be more appropriate at a general CVA meeting.

John opened the floor for any other business.

Signage in the village was brought up, relating to cyclists regularly using the paths throughout the village, could something be put up to make it clear to cyclists not to use the footpaths. Children were seen to be an exception to this but there is no reason for adult riders to be on the paths. It was also noted that as the cycle path ends, cyclist need to be aware they are entering a residential area, with Children playing, and potentially cats etc.

We will look into having closer relationship with Eildon wrt the paths etc so can see scope for additional/existing signage to be part of this. General cycling etiquette was mentioned, especially for walkers with hearing issues.

We have also discussed the back road speed limits etc with the council but they are hindered by lack of funds.

We have previously also discussed bus access into the village, which isn't something the committee was able to support. We need to be careful to limit additional traffic through the village from a safety point of view.

Can the committee risk access the cyclist entering the village? This may give us more ammunition to approach the council – could we also see if Tweedlove would be willing to help with signage.

The CVA does have various bits of land throughout the village which could be used to add a signpost to allow for signage and the advertising of events etc.

Qu: Is there any clarification on the car parking behind the new houses at Nashys?

Ans: The plans specifically stated these spaces were available for anyone to park.

Pat Spence mentioned he has spoken to John Forrest, the new manager at the hotel. We need to work out as a village what we would want from the hotel as he is keen to establish closer links with the village, discounts etc are on the table as is the possibility of village nights at Spikes etc. It is a good resource and could make a positive impact on the village. Is it possible to use social media to look for opinions and ideas? John commented that this should be possible.

The manager has suggested some sort of launch event to try and drum up enthusiasm within the village.

John thanked everyone for attending.