



Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association

A charity registered in Scotland (SC051089) constituted as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

MINUTES OF AGM

GLENMORISTON MILLENNIUM HALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

3.30 PM ON SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2025

1. Welcome

- a. Lynne West (Acting Chair) gave a warm welcome to all attendees.
- b. Apologies from Matt Curley, Jean Curley, Catherine Thomson, Jackie Buckley.

2. The previous minutes of the AGM of 9th December 2023 were approved by Rachel Hayes, seconded by Hilary Wilson.

3. Chair's report

Lynne West gave a tribute to the immense work done by the previous Chair, Carol Pritchard, who was also Chair of the Glenmoriston Improvement Group. She will be sorely missed and is irreplaceable, but we will do our best to continue her vision for this community. We will be celebrating her memory and a new bench will be placed at the top of the bank as a lasting memorial. The planting of daffodil bulbs on the banking is also to take place as daffodils were one of her favourite flowers.

- a) One of Carol's wishes was that as many clubs as possible would be able to use the hall. At today's date that wish is being fulfilled by the following:-
 - a. Mondays: Art Club and Bowling Group
 - b. Tuesdays: Community Tuesdays and Iaido
 - c. Wednesdays: Nourish & Flourish
 - d. Thursdays: Country Dancing
 - e. Fridays: Dungeons and Dragons; Pickleball
 - f. Saturdays: Craft Club (fortnightly)
 - g. Sundays: Line Dancing

There is also a monthly book club meet, quizzes and Church Services.

- b) Sub Groups:

Silver Surfers: 74 residents over 60 years of age are now members of the Silver Surfers group. This has become very popular amongst residents. The Christmas dinner, prepared and served by Aimi and Vicki from Glen Rowan Café, was a success in 2023 and again in 2024. Again, Carol was instrumental in encouraging the Hall Committee to support local businesses and the Glen Rowan team provided the group with an excellent service. Feedback was outstanding and we are grateful for

the funds provided by the FAGCC. Other activities have included a trip on Loch Ness, visits to Cawdor Castle and Fort George, lunches at Cawdor Tavern, Invergarry, Jaggy Thistle and Glenmoriston Arms. Thanks to go Elaine Minshall for organising many of these events. Elaine has now stood down from the Board but has continued to assist Lesley Hill with these events.

Heritage Group: The rebuilding of the viewing platform at St Columba's Well was completed, and should last for many years to come. We are still waiting for the Land Registry to confirm transfer of ownership from the former Heritage Group to GMHCA. Two trees had to be felled at the well and in their place a wood sculpture of Columba will be positioned. Seasonal talks have continued and the film "Loch Ness: they created a monster" was shown in the hall. With the help of Cill Chuimein Heritage Group and the Fort Augustus and Area Gaelic Group, with Trees for Life, funding has been given by Foundation Scotland (with 10% match funding from FAGCC) for the appointment of a 3 year Heritage and Gaelic Officer. The appointee will collect, record, display and preserve knowledge from the area's heritage, and organise regular talks/films and work to set up a Heritage centre for the Glen.

Events sub group: This group has focussed on family-friendly events. Last Year's New Year's Eve party was well supported, with a mix of music and BYO food and drink. A summer barbecue on the recreation field was also a success and well attended by the local community. There was a Silent Disco in the hall which was also well received. Two visits from the Budapest Cafe Orchestra were a highlight in musical culture and we hope they will be an annual feature in our events calendar.

Glenmoriston Improvement Group: There have been no new major GIG projects last year, with the GIG committee heavily involved in the establishment of the village community shop (another local success story). GIG continues to receive funds from Highland Council to cut the grass at the playing field and the picnic area. It also maintains the Playground equipment, the Heritage "Beastie Trail" and the Christmas lights display. Trees for Life have made donations to GIG from its carbon sales, which funded the animal Slow Down signs and which are awaiting the results of local residents' consultation for further spending. GIG is to be brought within the GMHCA but its funds will remain restricted for community activity in a separately designated line.

Millennium Hall – Assets and Resources: After months of trying to sort out the septic tank situation, and source a company willing to replace the defective tank, it was finally replaced at the end of August. Efforts are still ongoing to seek recompense in regards to the failed tank and to achieve registration of the new system with Highland Council. We are indebted to Thomas, Derek, Matt and Kelvin who were instrumental in seeing this project to completion.

In our efforts to seek to make the hall more energy efficient and utilised as an emergency resilience centre for the community, we pursued the offer of a Business Energy grant to reduce electricity usage with new lights and improved insulation. To this end, the kitchen cooker is being upgraded to a commercial dual fuel range with commercial extraction system. The community foundation funded a professional survey into powering the hall by renewables, but unfortunately, the hall is not

suitable for solar power, wind or hydro solutions and its size makes it unsuitable for an air source heat pump.

4. Handover by Glenmoriston Improvement Group

A formal handover from Glenmoriston Improvement Group was approved and it was confirmed the GIG title would be dropped as the group would cease to exist once financial transfer had been completed.

5. Consideration of the accounts for the year to 30th June 2024

Thomas gave a detailed breakdown of assets and expenditure for the Hall. Anyone wishing to have copies of the accounts and/or his detailed account of the finances may obtain them via email from the treasurer, Thomas Dobner.

The main points of the accounts are as follows:-

Financial period started well and the hall was operating with regular groups, commercial hires, quiz nights and Community Tuesdays being well attended until January 2024 when it became apparent that the septic tank was not working. We then had many operational challenges for the second half of the financial period with the septic tank failure leading to the public toilets being closed and the hall running on restricted usage.

GMHCA took over the operation of Community Tuesdays (it originally being a GIG project for its first year), and we also took on responsibility for running the Heritage Group and Silver Surfers and we set up the Out of School Club.

Total operational income for the hall for the period was £21,012.04, with huge thanks to FAGCC for their £15,000 grant which made up a significant portion of the overall income. Total operational expenditure for the hall was £19,004.76, giving a surplus of £2,007.28 which increased hall reserves slightly to £59,838.04.

Grants received during the year were:- £15,000 for hall operations, £1,000 for the Out of School Club, £14,500 for Community Tuesdays and £4,725 towards paying for the renewable energy feasibility study. Again, with thanks to FAGCC for their support of these projects.

As at 1 July 2024 our Protected Funds balances were as follows:- Toilet Works: £11,354.80, Silver Surfers: £2,484.15, Out of School Club: 321.15, Heritage Group: £1,375.94, Renewable Energy Report: £4,725.00 and Community Tuesdays: £8,523.41 (including a carry forward because CT had to be abandoned early in 2024 due to the septic tank issues – these funds were partially carried forward to use for the 2024-2025 CT season and partially agreed to be used for kitchen equipment upgrade).

As at 1 July 2024 the GMHCA total bank balance was £87,936.92 and petty cash balance was £685.57.

In response to a question, the treasurer said no formal target for reserves had been set but the Board operates with a working aspiration of bringing reserves back to the pre-pandemic levels of between £60,000 and £70,000.

Email address for full copy of accounts is: treasurer@glenmoristonhall.org.uk.

6. **The election/re-election of charity trustees.** With nine existing board members wishing to remain in post, one wishing to be re-appointed, and two new applicants, we have 13 people interested in standing as Trustees. 13 is the maximum number of trustees allowed by the charity's constitution so an election was not required and all applicants were appointed. Elected / re-elected members are:

Catherine Thomson – re-elected

Irene Holt- elected

Linzie Surkitt-elected

7. Any Other Business

a) Questions were asked about the need for a commercial cooker in the kitchen. The Chair pointed out that the current domestic oven was not suitable for cooking large volume meals such as on a Community Tuesday, and as the hall was a potential building for a resilience centre, it should be able to provide the community with proper cooked meals. The current cooker does not meet these criteria. As the hall has funding available to replace the domestic oven, a commercial one will be installed, together with upgraded extraction as required.

b) It was requested that the store cupboard be decluttered as it was difficult to get certain things out. The chair confirmed that there had been extra items in the store room during the festive period but since the Christmas Tree and Christmas decorations had been removed the store room was much tidier, although more could be done to improve things. There was a suggestion that if one of the bowling mats (the old one) could be relocated on the same roller as the new one, (as the supplying company had recommended could be done) then this would free up considerable space in the other storage room. If that was done, the table tennis tables and the large screens could then be placed in the space released. This would mean there would be much more 'movement' area in the store room by the kitchen. Week on week, there are various committee members who have been sifting through items in the store room and either recycling or removing them. This will continue to be done. It was appreciated that the freezers took up quite a bit of room, but these are necessary for the storage of food at correct temperatures for Community Tuesday and other events.

c) A resident from Redburn brought up a longstanding issue with the parking on the A887, across from the Redburn café. Bollards were due to be placed roadside to stop people parking to look at the highland cows in the field there, but he believed a Community Councillor with a financial interest was arguing against these. There have been ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland, Roads, FAGCC Council etc. Lynne directed his comments to Clare Levings (who is a member of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council, and invited anyone with concerns to attend the next FAGCC meeting on Wednesday 29th January in the Millennium Hall). This matter is not really a matter for the Glenmoriston

Community Association to deal with, but there was considerable support for addressing the problem and his concern will be passed on to the FAGCC chair.

d) The Board's decision to use a shortening of the name 'Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Community Association' in common use to 'Glenmoriston Community Association' was questioned. The Chair assured the membership that it did not reduce in any way the commitment to care for the Millennium Hall as an important community resource, but was to make the name simpler for local people to use.

Board trusteesas from 18th January 2025

Stella Barter – Dilly Dally, Dalchreichart
Lynne West – Birchenham House, Dalcattaig
Jackie Buckley – Guisaichean, Invermoriston
Thomas Dobner – Falls House, Invermoriston
Rachel Hayes, Redburn
Lesley Hill – Redpark, Invermoriston
Catherine Thomson - Tigh naBruach, Invermoriston – re-elected
Hilary Wilson – 5 Glendale Park, Invermoriston
Kelvin Hill – Redpark, Invermoriston
Barbara MacLeod, Glendale Park, Invermoriston
Jim Ross, 28 Invergarry Lodges
Irene Holt, Glenmoriston Buildings, Invermoriston
Linzie Surkitt, Glenmoriston Buildings, Invermoriston