

Saughtonhall Community Association Committee
Annual General Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2025

Present: Moray Rumney, John Harrison, Andrew Gosden, Zia Rahman, Sheila Watt, Carolyn Williams, Hazel Pryde, Douglas Beddie, David McIntosh, Mary McIntosh, Simone Thomson, Edith Semple, Julie Happer, Colin Happer, Patrick McMenamin, Olice Dean, Rebecca Alderdice, Derek Whigham, Miss Whigham, Linda Gosden, Sheila Sutherland, Agnes Goudie, Kate Hannon, Kathryn Burns, Judith Thomas, John Colemand, Edith Connor, Brian Carson, Elma Mclean

Apologies: Carol Robson, Mr and Mrs D Couper, Norma Rolls, James Ogilvie, Helen Brockie

1. Welcome and Approval of Previous Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting and referred attendees to the paper copy of the previous AGM minutes. The minutes from the 2023 AGM were approved with no corrections requested.

A proposer (Elaine Rumney) and a seconder (Derek Whigham) were confirmed.

2. Conflicts

None Declared

3. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the past year had been similar to pre-pandemic activity levels, with a wide range of events and regular bookings. Thanks were given to Julie, the hall booking administrator, for compiling the activity summary.

Regular Weekly Activities

There are currently ten weekly activities held in the hall, including:

- Saturday morning dance sessions
- A Tamil church group meeting every Sunday morning (around 50 attendees)
- Zumba classes
- Edinburgh West Chess Club (around 30 children, led partly by a chess grandmaster)
- Dinky Dots (younger children's dance group)
- Rainbows and Brownies
- Qigong for seniors
- Additional Dansation sessions
- Yoga
- The long-running Ladies Club

The Chair noted that various groups benefit from the space, and the refurbishment plans aim to provide additional rooms to support broader usage of the hall.

New and Occasional Users

- Another church has requested twice-monthly Sunday evening services.
- NHS health visitors have asked to use the hall monthly for meetings with new mothers (free of charge).
- The Green Team uses the grounds weekly.
- A summer coding club ran for two weeks.
- There were 99 private bookings this year (47 local, 52 external), compared with only 57 in 2015 — a significant increase.

Community Events

The association also ran several successful events:

- 2024 Summer Fete (over 400 attendees despite rain)
- 2024 McMillan Coffee Morning (raised over £458 for McMillan)
- 2024 Burns Supper (42 attendees)
- 2024 Christmas tree lights and Santa visit

Photos were shown of the events, including pony rides, emergency services displays, stalls, and children's activities.

The Chair expressed pride in the hall's high usage and noted that few Edinburgh communities have access to a space like this at such an affordable cost.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mark Taylor, has served for 13 years and intends to step down once a replacement is found. The Chair presented the accounts on his behalf.

Income

- Operational receipts: just over £12,000 (slightly down from last year)
- Grants: £5,000 from City of Edinburgh Council for summer sessions, plus another smaller grant
- Events: The 2024 Summer Fete raised around £3,000; the Burns Supper also contributed

Total income: £23,206

Expenditure

- Operational costs: just over £19,000
- Heating and power increased by 50%

- Cleaning costs decreased due to a new contractor
- £2,700 spent on improvements (mostly funded by the council grant for the AV system and screen)
- Event costs were typical, with the Summer Fair generating a £1,300 surplus

Financial Position

- Year-end surplus: £3,961
- Total funds: £53,000
 - £4,200 ring-fenced for refurbishment
 - £30,000 allocated by committee for hall improvements
 - Approximately £18,000 remaining as general surplus

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Linda Gosden and seconded by Sheila Watt and approved accordingly.

Subscriptions and Hall Hire Fees

The annual subscription remains £5 per household.

Hall hire remains £15 for members and £20 for non-members per hour. These may be reviewed after the SCIO transition.

5. Transition to SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

The Chair introduced the item by explaining why the committee believes the association should transition from its current unincorporated status to becoming a SCIO. The key reasons included:

- The current constitution is outdated and does not reflect modern governance standards.
- Trustees currently carry unlimited personal liability.
- A SCIO provides limited liability protection.
- A SCIO can enter into contracts, which the current association cannot.
- A SCIO reports only to OSCR, simplifying governance.
- Many funders require SCIO status before considering grant applications.

The committee began the initial SCIO application process in December 2024. A new bank account will also be required before the transition can be finalised.

A two-part resolution was then presented on screen:

The current paid up members are hereby requested to consider and vote on the following resolution:

That subject to the successful establishment of a new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“New SCIO”) by the Committee:

1. All necessary steps are taken by the Committee to ensure that all assets and Liabilities of the Saughtonhall Community Association be transferred to New SCIO; and
2. Upon completion of such transfer the Saughtonhall Community Association be dissolved

One member raised a procedural concern regarding the second resolution. Under the current constitution, any motion to dissolve the association must be circulated with its exact wording at least 21 days in advance. While members had been informed 21 days prior that a vote on the transition to a SCIO would take place, the required dissolution wording had not been issued.

A discussion followed on how best to proceed considering this requirement and it was agreed that:

- The meeting could proceed to vote on the first part of the resolution (to establish the SCIO and transfer assets), as this was not subject to the same requirements under the constitution
- The second part of the resolution (to dissolve the current association) would not be voted on at this meeting.
- Instead, the exact wording would be circulated in accordance with the constitution, and a future AGM or SGM would be convened to take the formal dissolution vote.

A modified resolution was then put up for vote:

The current paid up members are hereby requested to consider and vote on the following resolution:

That subject to the successful establishment of a new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“New SCIO”) by the Committee:

1. All necessary steps are taken by the Committee to ensure that all assets and Liabilities of the Saughtonhall Community Association be transferred to New SCIO

On a show of hands, the resolution to establish the SCIO and transfer assets was passed 24–0 in favour.

6. Refurbishment Update

The Chair provided an update on the ongoing refurbishment planning. Key points included:

- The need for additional flexible space, particularly to support larger groups, youth activities, community events and improve disabled access.
- The AV system and projector screen installed last year were funded largely through the council grant.
- The committee has earmarked over £34,000 for refurbishment, combining ring-fenced donations and allocated reserves.
- Further funding will be required to complete the full refurbishment plan, and becoming a SCIO will help unlock additional grant opportunities.

- More detailed refurbishment proposals will be presented later in the year once the SCIO transition is complete.

No objections or questions were raised.

6. Election of Office Bearers

The Chair confirmed that all office bearers elected the previous year were willing to continue in their roles.

No alternative nominations were received from the floor.

The existing office bearers were therefore re-elected unopposed.

7. History Project

A brief update was given on the ongoing History Project, which aims to document the long history of the hall and the surrounding community.

Key points included:

- The Ladies Club, originally a baby and toddler group, has been meeting for many decades and forms part of the project's oral history work.
- Historical materials, photographs, and personal recollections are being collected.
- A more detailed presentation will be shared at a future meeting once the archive is better organised.
- Members were encouraged to contribute stories, documents, or memorabilia.

8. Any Other Business

No other items were raised and the Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support of the association and brought the meeting to a close.