

**Applecross Community Hall Annual General Meeting 22/04/2025 at 7pm (Applecross Hall & online)  
Minutes**

Minutes taken by Saara Viitanen

Present: Barbara Gillies (BG), Saara Viitanen (SV), Christian Burgin (CB), Anne Macrae (AM), Rhona McPartlin (RM), Ishbel Ferguson (IF), Elodie Matthews (EM), Agnes Rymowicz (AR), Caty MacLennan (CM), Gerry McPartlin (GM), Daniella Joyce (DJ)

Apologies: -

**Agenda items**

**Approval of minutes from previous AGM on 26/02/2024**

- BG approved, RM seconded.

**Chair's report**

- BG reported:

"I'd like to start by saying a big thank you to all who supported Hall this past year in many different ways. Particular thanks is owed to our hall Committee volunteers who have worked their socks off over the course of another year to help maintain our community's public space, to the benefit of all who live in Applecross and whose efforts have supported a huge range of exciting and some very new events and activities to happen at the hall over the past year. Thank you too to all those in the community who answered the call whenever we need extra help.

Thank you to Debs who stepped down as cleaner at the end of 2024 but then took on the big job of painting the public area and loos for us alongside Robert Macrae. We are pleased however to have had Jill step in as our main cleaner now.

2024 was the year of our amazing partnership with the Touring Network's Micronetwork got to showcase 3 top class performances at the hall. We are very grateful to have been chosen to be part of the Micronetwork and for the funding the Touring Network has provided to allow us to bring performances to our community that we would not have otherwise been able to see here.

We remain very grateful to Judith and her team at the Applecross Inn for feeding all our performers and to the Walled Garden for providing raffle prizes and stepping in to save the seniors' Christmas dinner by taking on the enormous task of doing all the catering for it! Thank you too to Judith for providing free accommodation for performers when we were really struggling to find other

options.

Also thank you to all the other local businesses, crafts folk and Applecross residents who chipped in with much needed prizes for our many raffles.

We are grateful for funding we've received from North Highland Initiative, Vegware (for donating biodegradable cups and containers), the Touring Network and Scottish Government for both the children and adults' mental health grants. The latter 2 grants have enabled us to support a wide range of new initiatives.

Finally also a big thank you to anyone else who has supported the hall committee in their endeavours this past year who I've forgotten to mention!"

### **Treasurer's report**

- CB gave a report on the finances in the past year. The hall finances broke even thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers.
- CB gave a breakdown of income / expenditure, of which a summary will be put up on the hall noticeboard.
- CB noted that some more income came through from hall hire and the bar this year. Weddings brought some income too.
- CB noted that grant expenditure is ringfenced, as the hall has been awarded funding for specific projects.
- CB reported that the past year included some big maintenance costs. BG noted that in the next year, painting the main hall might be the next maintenance project, but this is to be confirmed.
- CB noted that finances are looking healthy, and that the accounts are to be filed soon.
- The committee thanked CB for all his efforts.
- AM asked about the bar income / expenditure, which is outlined in the breakdown.
- BG highlighted the rental income from Morrisons for the use of the car park for click and collect. The committee are grateful for this.

### **SCIO**

- BG/SV reported about the SCIO process as follows:

"The progress with the SCIO has been paused for a few months, but is progressing well again.

We have had some back and forth with OSCR, as they have asked us to submit further paperwork in order to wind down the current charity.

The next steps are:

- Amend our constitution to allow us to transfer to the new charity (SCIO), and
- Appoint three temporary Trustees from the community.”

- BG, SV and CB to meet separately about next steps.

### **Policies & Licensing**

- BG reported:

“Gas & Fire safety checks are carried out annually and 6 monthly and remedial repairs completed. Committee have copies of the Risk Assessment documentation from the fire safety check completed in July 2024 (next due in 6 months).

Copies of the Fire safety, Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety are in the black document holder on the bookcase in the Hall Lounge room. The Accident report forms are kept on the shelf beside the kitchen door. The Child Protection Policy is attached to the hall noticeboard. AR is our nominated safe guarder.

Bar premises licence holder is Tom O’Halloran. Anne Macrae has also got her personal licence qualifications. We are grateful to all the volunteers who have assisted in looking after the bar for us this year.

We did not renew our Gambling Licence as we haven’t held any lottery raffles in the past 2 years. Our Phonographic Performance Licence (PPL) & Performing Right Society (PRS) is due for renewal shortly. Cinema Club is ensuring that film licences are in place for public screening events.”

### **Improvements**

- BG highlighted the improvements and maintenance done on the hall and car park this year:

“The 2 big works completed over the past year have been the car park drainage repairs. The work was done for us by Donald Mackenzie (thanks to funding from NHI) and the painting of the hall corridors / reception areas and toilets and shower rooms.

George Graham, Sean Kilbride and Dave Abraham have helped us keep on top of repairs.”

### **Events & New Initiatives**

- BG highlighted some events and projects from the past year:

2024 saw a wide and varied range of events.

Grant funding has allowed us to keep the Pay as you can afford option to all our events and has enabled us support a number of new initiatives including regular hairdressing sessions, podiatry sessions, zumba, yoga, an art workshop, a silent disco and most recently a roller disco.

Applecross Cinema Club continued to be well attended over the autumn / winter season – we have 2 films still to come!

“The Sharing Table” has been very well received and is being well used.”

### **Mental Health Grants**

- BG reported:

“We had success securing 2 mental Health Grants in 2023 that provide us with the funds over the next 2 years at least, to maintain and build on the range of activities for all ages that currently happens at the hall.

The Children’s Mental Health Grant was secured by Ros & Megan.

Currently £3783.73 remains in the Children’s MH grant. There is no end date to spending. There are several children’s performances scheduled for this year thanks to the grant.

£2610.93 remains in the adult grant and is required to be spent by July.

We are keen to get the community’s ideas for how we spend the remainder of the grant money.”

- BG highlighted some of the activities that the children’s mental health funding has been spent on, including e.g. trips to the theatre, laser tag, climbing, and scouts activities locally, and noted that some children’s performance events in the coming year include a magic show and workshop, and a puppet show.
- BG also noted that some of the activities related to the adults’ mental health funding so far have included lunch club activities and outings, hosting community services at the hall (hairdresser, foot care, beautician), fitness classes, cinema club activities, and various events at the hall.

### **Plans for 2025**

- BG noted that the plans for this year are:
  - Complete as a SCIO

- Begin to explore options for making the hall building more energy efficient
- Redecorate (paint & curtains) the main hall
- Improve the toddlers' outdoor play area
- Relocate the sharing table to an outdoor store for easier access

#### **Election of committee members**

- All members of the committee resigned as per the constitution.
- BG, AR, AM, RM, IF and EM wished to re-join the committee.
- On behalf of the committee, BG thanked DJ for all her efforts in this past year.
- RM proposed CB Treasurer, IF seconded.
- BG proposed SV as Secretary, AR seconded.

#### **AOB**

- GM thanked the committee for all their efforts.

Next AGM scheduled for Tuesday 21st April 2026.

BG concluded the meeting.