



Middleton Village
Community Hall

Minutes of North Middleton Village Community Hall Extra Committee Meeting

19th March 2026

Present: Janet Donaldson (JD)
Norma McDonald (NM)
Carrie Bennett (CB)
Anne Robertson (AR)
Lynne Morris (LM)
Jen Russell (JR)
Dan McCormack (DM)
Craig Purves (CP)

Welcome

Action

JD welcomed everyone to the extra meeting held to discuss the next steps for the replacement of the hall ground source heat pump and discussions so far regarding available funding. CP joined the meeting via mobile phone.

JR updated the meeting on her discussions with CARES who have advised that, as the funding is required to replace a current heating system and not a brand new system, they will only meet 40% of that cost. JR advised that in respect of any solar panels that may be pursued in addition for the hall, CARES would meet 80% of that cost.

CB had forwarded details of Tyne & Esk grants/funding and JR has registered to attend a webinar on Wednesday 25th March to get more information in this regard.

JR

JR advised that she was contacting Knox Power for an updated costing for solar panels. Ruth at CARES had also advised of a company in Duns to contact for quotes and IMS have quoted for the boiler replacement already but not for solar panels. JR advised that there would probably be a need for at least a couple of quotes, maximum of 3, for the works to be done. NM advised that there may be a company in Loanhead and would try and get the information.

NM

JR had also been in contact with the local councillor, Ellen Scott, who has been very supportive and helpful and, following Ellen's advice, JR had been in contact with Peter Arnsdorf, Chief Planning Officer of Midlothian Council regarding planning permissions for solar panels should this be undertaken. Midlothian Council had advised that the hall was not in a conservation area and not listed and therefore would not require planning permission. There was still confusion about the building warrant aspect of solar panels and JR will speak to Ruth at CARES to try and clarify.

JR

There was a discussion, now that only 40% of funding was available to replace the heating system, how the remainder of the money would be raised. Councillors Ellen Scott and Douglas Bowen had pledged £4,000, with possibly another £2,000 available from Councillor Kelly Drummond, although this was still to be clarified.

JD requested JR if she could ask Councillor Ellen Scott about funding from Midlothian Council via their Place Department, which the Newtongrange Development Trust had received, and whether this could be available for North Middleton Village Hall. Pathhead Village Hall and Vogrie had also received funding from the Council for renovations so it was worth trying to find out if there was anything available to the hall.

JR

NM asked whether there may be the option of an interest free loan from Business Energy Scotland or any grants available from them. JR is to check with Ruth from CARES regarding whether this would be something that could be applied for or available in association with the CARES funding. A free energy report would be required from Business Energy Scotland. There may also be an option to apply for an additional £1500 from the Carcant wind farm

JR

LM

grants available. LM to discuss with Naomi at Foundation Scotland.

DM will speak to his workplace HR dept regarding community charitable contributions.

DM

NM expressed concern at the level of shortfall in monies now that the grant available from CARES was 40% and whether a replacement boiler and solar panels could be pursued. If the 40% funding, Councillor contributions and the Carcant fund did materialise, there was a shortfall of £5K on the boiler replacement and potentially £12K on the boiler replacement and solar panel installation. It was agreed that the priority was the replacement of the heating system in the first instance.

The hall had seen a large amount of expenditure over the past few months which had impacted on the savings account. There needed to be more fund raising events and donations to the maintenance fund for the hall. This would be discussed in more detail at the next committee meeting. AR advised she would discuss the line dancing donations to the hall and if these could go directly into the maintenance fund.

ALL

Date of Next Meeting : Monday, 6th April 2026