



GULLANE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – THE VILLAGE HALL
Hall Crescent, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2HA.
Scottish charity number SC000497

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 27th January 2026

1 Declaration of Interest

None

2 Welcome, introductions and apologies

Trustees: Colin Thomson (Chair), Veronica Campanile (Secretary), Gary Hitchen (Treasurer), Iain Blakebell, Margaret Bruce, Caroline Griffiths, Eric Thomson.

Lorraine Hunter (Bookings Secretary), Shona Collins (Minutes)

Residents / User Groups: Eric Van Beck, Jonathan Kinna, Anne McKenzie.

Apologies: Caroline Shilton, Caroline Hitchen, Liz Thomson, Nicola Bourke.

3 Minutes of last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM held on 28th January 2025 were distributed to the attendees. No matters arising. Adoption of the minute as a true record was proposed by Jonathan Kinna and seconded by Eric Van Beck. AGM 2025 minutes duly signed by Colin Thomson.

4 Correspondence None

5 Chair's Report

Thank you: Colin Thomson thanked those present for their attendance. On behalf of the trustees he thanked all Gullane Village Hall users and volunteers for their contributions to the running of the hall. Trustees particularly wish to thank regular volunteer helpers Eric Van Beck, and Lachlan McLean, and also Roy Munro, who took the photos for the updated website. CT also thanked Mandy Cannon, who keeps the hall clean and well presented, Lorraine Hunter, who manages all the bookings, Sam Cowie, who regularly clears the hall gutters, and Shona Collins who takes the minutes at trustee meetings.

Projects/ improvements: CT outlined the varied improvements and works carried out over the past year. These include installation of the stage-lift, upgrade of the main hall lighting system, refurbishment of the main hall floor, installation of blinds in the meeting room, and replacement of radiators in the main hall.

Governance: CT called for new trustees and volunteers to join them in making sure the hall remains a thriving asset for the whole community. The website has been updated and articles written to publicise the hall locally. Booking fees were reviewed in 2025 but were not increased. The business development of the hall has been made more efficient by enabling electronic payments, and by establishing an inventory of all important hall documents. There is also a maintenance plan which is reviewed by the trustees each month to ensure essential tasks are completed. In the past year the trustees have also reviewed and improved fire safety measures and risk assessment procedures.

Future projects: There are plans to upgrade the external lighting and re-paint the stage and main hall. The main hall audiovisual equipment is also to be updated. The trustees wish to encourage more use of the hall, and are introducing a reduced rate for Sunday evenings.

6 Treasurer's Financial Report

Receipts and payments: Gary Hitchen outlined income and expenditure for 2025 and confirmed that the independent examiner has passed the accounts prior to sending them to the charity regulator (OSCR). Details of all receipts and payments were distributed and attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Receipts: Total receipts for 2025 of £66,774.14 were £17,917 higher than 2024. GH highlighted that donations were up by over £18,000 compared with last year due mainly to a large donation from Gullane Golf Club. There were no special awards or grants made this year. Friends of GCA and other Gift Aid donations were nearly £8000 higher than 2024 thanks to a generous anonymous donation. Bookings income was up by £3630 from last year.

Expenses: Total payments for 2025 of £71,030.67 were higher than 2024 by more than £38,000 largely due to the planned improvements and refurbishment of the hall outlined by CT in the Chair's Report. Regular running expenses were much the same in 2025 as the year before apart from a £100 increase in insurance due to the stage-lift, and a similar extra amount spent on a SumUp machine for cashless payments. Routine service and repair costs were at the same level and this year included re-laying the cupboard floors, servicing the heating, and replacement of kitchen appliances. There was one returned payment relating to a booking.

Additional Account information: The closing balance of all the accounts as at 31st December 2025 is £41,878.98. GH added that £15000 of this total is retained in an interest paying savings account as a contingency fund. It is planned to move another £5000 to the savings account in the near future.

There were no questions. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Jonathan Kinna and seconded by Eric Van Beck, and signed by Gary Hitchen and Colin Thomson.

7 How we are all using the hall

Bookings Secretary's Report

Lorraine Hunter prepared a bookings report for 2025, which she read out to the meeting. (See full report in Appendix)

2025 was a busy year with all the regular bookings from the previous year returning for 2025. There are eight regular classes for children and young people and twelve for adults. There were fewer one-off events booked this year compared with 2024 but both income and overall footfall were higher than in 2024. LH highlighted that the hall hosted the first wedding in many years, and also that the meeting room is well used for smaller gatherings.

Reports from Hall User Groups

Table Tennis: Jonathan Kinna prepared a report for 2025 (See full report in Appendix). He described the newly installed lighting as "fantastic". The two lighting banks provide uniform and bright light. He also expressed appreciation for the refurbished wooden floor. Footfall is up on last year and has held up all year.

Gullane Community Ceilidh Band: Iain Blakebell informed the meeting that the ceilidh band, who perform in the main hall on Friday mornings, is now up to maximum numbers drawn from the village and wider community. Residents and staff from Muirfield care home join as audience members every week. The

ceilidh band run several fundraising events in aid of the hall each year, including the annual Hogmanay ceilidh.

Gullane and Dirleton History Society: Eric Thomson reported that the society has had another very successful year. The venue for the programme of talks alternates between Gullane Village hall and Dirleton Kirk hall and each hall hosts four talks a year. All the meetings are well attended, with several last year attracting over a hundred people. The meeting room is used for History Society committee meetings.

East Lothian Yoga School: Nicola Bourke teaches one adult yoga class a week. She was unable to attend but stated in a message that her only needs are for reliable heating and a clean floor and she expressed her gratitude to the volunteers running the hall.

8 Feedback and Suggestions

Eric Van Beck suggested that it would have been helpful to have a “no admittance” sign on the door when the hall was closed for electrical work last year, and the trustees took note of this.

Jonathan Kinna confirmed that the blinds installed in the meeting room, following his suggestion at the AGM last year, have improved the Table Tennis club members’ playing experience.

Veronica Campanile mentioned the positive collaboration with the Scouts and Gullane Bloomers which has improved the appearance and upkeep of the planting around the hall premises.

9 Election of Office Bearers

Colin Thomson, Gary Hitchen and Veronica Campanile all advised that they were happy to continue in their respective roles.

Chair: Colin Thomson was proposed by Eric Van Beck and seconded by Jonathan Kinna.

Treasurer: Gary Hitchen was proposed by Anne McKenzie and seconded by Lorraine Hunter.

Secretary: Veronica Campanile was proposed by Jonathan Kinna and seconded by Shona Collins.

10 Presentation

Eric Thomson is retiring as a GCA trustee at this AGM. Colin Thomson thanked him for his hard work and steadfast commitment to the hall over the past 18 years.

Iain Blakebell retired as GCA treasurer in 2025, after 25 years. Colin Thomson thanked him for his dedication and long service in this role.

A presentation was made to both on behalf of the trustees.

11 Provisional date of the next Gullane Community Association AGM: Tuesday 26th January 2027

Minutes signed off

As agreed by the Trustees at the meeting

Signature Date



GULLANE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Scottish Charity No SC000497

Gullane Village Hall bookings 2025

- 2025 was another really busy year in the village hall, with a very varied programme of activities and events.
- As most of you will know, we have two broad categories of bookings. Firstly our regular clubs and classes – the kind of activities that run weekly or monthly across the year - and secondly single, one-off bookings for parties and other public and private events.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY CLUBS & CLASSES:

- Starting with our regular clubs and classes, there was very little change in 2025, with all the previous year's activities back for another year, showing how popular and well attended they are.
- On every week day, there are multiple groups and classes throughout the day and evening, as well as weekly kids classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- The current regular groups running in the hall are:
- **For children & young people:**
 - Karate classes
 - Drama classes
 - Rugbytots
 - Sporting Revolution fitness classes
 - Beavers, cubs & scouts, and
 - Ballet & tap classes
- **For adults:**
 - Karate
 - Zumba
 - Two different yoga groups
 - Pilates
 - Table tennis
 - Mums & babies fitness classes
 - Line dancing
 - The Gullane folk and guitar club
 - The monthly craft group, Sewforth
 - Lectures organised by the Gullane & District History Society
 - The Gullane Community Ceilidh Band

SINGLE, ONE-OFF EVENTS:

- In terms of single, one-off bookings, we had 58 in 2025, down from 74 in 2024, but at the same level as 2023.

- These included:
 - 31 parties – kids and adults birthday parties, a couple of family parties and an 80th birthday ceilidh (34 in 2024, 25 in 2023)
 - Various fundraising events including quiz nights, 2 bridge events, a coffee morning and an accordion concert
 - 2 Scottish country dances
 - 2 pop-up restaurant events
 - A Beavers sleepover
 - An all-day music workshop
 - A church program event
 - Gullane Games week - table tennis, a family ceilidh and the famous quiz night
 - The Gullane Food & Drink Christmas market
 - A wreath making workshop
 - And a fabulous wedding – our first for some time

Then two annual events which serve as important fundraisers for the village hall:

- The village apple festival
- And another sell-out Gullane Community Hogmanay Ceilidh!

We rebranded the small hall as the meeting room last year to better explain its purpose. It continues to be popular in its own right as a space for hire. As well as the weekly post office outreach service, and monthly surgeries for two local Councillors, it has played host to committee meetings and AGMs for various local groups, as well as being used weekly by the table tennis club.

BOOKINGS INCOME

Bookings income in 2025 totalled £32,371, up from £28,740 in 2024 – an increase of 13%. So even though the number of one-off bookings were slightly down on last year, the overall value of all the bookings in the hall was up, which is very positive. Also positive is that after the trustees' annual review of booking fees in October they were able to take the decision not to increase rates but to keep them the same as the previous year.

FOOTFALL

We estimate footfall in the hall to be nearly 30,000 in 2025. This is calculated by multiplying the number of people attending each individual class or event by the number of classes and events. It's not the number of people in the hall, because lots of people will have attended multiple events, so best to think of it as 30,000 pairs of feet in the hall across the year. In 2024 that figure was just under 24,000, so an increase of 24% year on year.

2026

Turning to this year, I'm pleased to say all our regular groups and classes are back for another year. In terms of one-off bookings, we already have 24 booked in for 2026 with everything from exhibitions to a willow basket weaving workshop and a foodie supper club - and it's not even the end of January yet! So it's clear that it's gearing up to be another very busy and varied year, with all kinds of events to look forward to in 2026.

Lorraine Hunter, Bookings Secretary

27/01/2026

Gullane Community Table Tennis Club

For Village Hall AGM 27th January 2026

Table Tennis Club Hall Usage Report for 2025 (*Period Feb 2025 to end of Jan 2026*)

Attendance at the club's Wednesday sessions has been good again this year, averaging 22 per session since September. In addition regular use of the meeting room on Monday mornings has been made throughout the year. A few Sunday sessions for members were run in the autumn. The club hosted 20 children at our table tennis event as part of the Gullane Games in July. A club singles championship was held near Easter and a Doubles Championship in early December. An inter-club doubles competition was run for the first time in June. The club's first team finished second in the Edinburgh and Lothian Table Tennis League (ELTTL) Div 4 winning promotion to Div 3. In which it has been playing since September. Our second competitive team continues to progress in ELTTL Div 5.

Background

Gullane Community Table Tennis Club was formed in September 2018 as part of an initiative by Table Tennis East Lothian to start table tennis clubs across the county. It has a Senior (Adult) section and provides support for juniors through support for the annual Gullane Games and running an after school club at the primary school in 2025. We aim to be a welcoming and inclusive club, providing the opportunity for young and old in the community to play table tennis.

2025 Usage

Senior/Adult Club Sessions As mentioned already we have been able to run our club Wednesday nights throughout the year except for those dates when the hall is not available to us. Our membership comes not just from Gullane but also along the coast from Longniddry to North Berwick. At time of writing our adult membership is 40 members plus 2 junior members. Along with the new members we have had good retention of our existing members.

Team members are using the small hall for practice on a Monday morning.

We have also started using the Recreation Hall for sessions on some Monday evenings to cope with increased demand for evening playing sessions from our members.

Junior and Family Sessions We held a few member's Sunday afternoons in the Autumn and our annual free open-to-all session at Christmas. The club does not charge for this session as we see it as a way for us to give back to our community. We are grateful for the support of all who attend them.

We hosted a table tennis event as part of the Gullane Games week on Wednesday the 26th July with 20 children attending.

Gullane Community Table Tennis Club

For Village Hall AGM 27th January 2026

Foot fall

Our footfall, hall usage per session, is up again this year on the previous year's footfall (1420 versus 1274).

This is due to:

- strong weekly attendance at our Wednesday sessions
- Monday morning sessions
- Other training sessions for our competitive squad
- Events: Gullane Games and Inter-Club Doubles

| Session | Footfall totals |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Wednesday evenings | 952 |
| Monday mornings | 314 |
| Training sessions | 29 |
| Sunday afternoons | 66 |
| <i>Events:</i> | |
| Interclub doubles | 24 |
| Gullane Games | 35 |
| Total | 1420 |

Thanks to the Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee:

As always, we are indebted to the Village Hall trustees and committee for all of your flexibility and support across the year again. We look forward to taking the club forward again in 2026. **Thank you!**