New Winton Community Association

Trustees' Annual Report 2025-2026



Contact information

New Winton Community Association

Scottish Charity Number: SC008775

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Charity Trustees

1. Sally Thomas (Chair)
2. Janet Revesz (Secretary)
3. Kate Hanson (Treasurer)
4. Hilary Dickson
5. Bridget Garvie
6. Simon Pope
7. Ian Suddaby
8. Chris Thomas
9. Marjory Thrusfield

Objectives and activities

New Winton Community Association was established in 1980 in order to maintain the New Winton village hall and to manage its use in a way that will benefit the community, as per the original Trust Deed (see “Structure, governance and management”).

To this end, the committee meets regularly to organise hall maintenance, plan community events and discuss ongoing activities such as fundraising and hall bookings. Committee meetings, especially the AGM, also provide an opportunity for residents of New Winton and the surrounding area to voice questions and raise concerns about the village hall and its use, and provide a platform for further community collaboration and projects, such as maintenance of hanging baskets and the local play area.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Trust Deed, established in 1980, gives the trustees indefinite tenure of New Winton village hall, under the following conditions (summarised for the purposes of this report):

1) it is used as a community centre for the education and recreation of the residents of New Winton and the neighbourhood, with no political or religious affiliations;

2) it is managed democratically by an unpaid and elected committee of residents of New Winton and the neighbourhood;

3) an annual general meeting is held each year to allow for election or re-election of committee members and the appointment of an auditor for annual accounts;

4) funds in the New Winton Community Association bank account should be spent on the maintenance of the building and resources for the education and recreation of residents.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

In the year 2025 - 2026, Sally Thomas, Janet Revesz and Kate Hansen were elected as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer/bookings co-ordinator respectively. Other committee members are Hilary Dickson, Bridget Garvie (Facebook coordinator), Simon Poole, Ian Suddaby, Chris Thomas (maintenance co-ordinator) and Marjory Thrusfield.

Achievements and performance

In 2025 - 2026 the village hall has been well used for community events, and let commercially to a range of different users.

Community events organised directly by the Community Association have included coffee mornings, the weekly Cuppa and Chat social gathering, the annual barbeque, a successful autumn craft fair and a Hogmanay social evening. The autumn craft fair gave local producers and small businesses an opportunity to sell direct to the public. It was very well attended by visitors from the local area and all the stall holders were delighted with the level of sales and wider publicity for their businesses.

The weekly Cuppa and Chat social gathering has continued through the autumn and winter with the benefit of grant funding for some of that period from the Scottish Government Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. In recognition of the value of Cuppa & Chat to the local community, Community Association funds were utilised to ensure that Cuppa & Chat could continue into spring.



New Winton Craft Fair – Autumn 2025

The hall has also been well used by a range of other regular local groups and classes, such as yoga, pilates, sound baths, children's parties and for private lets, such as for dancing. Sadly, the long running local playgroup group - New Winton Nippers – ceased to operate during the year. New Winton Nippers has never been a Community Association organised group, but there has have had a long association with the Nippers and we are sad to see the group fold.

All clubs, classes and social events are outlined at newwinton.co.uk/hall-clubs-classes/ and Village Events – New Winton Village Hall

All our events help to raise funds to support the running and maintenance of the hall. We have also gratefully received a grant from Pencaitland & District Community Council, and are identified as a "good cause" by the East Lothian Community Lottery.

The ongoing maintenance of the village hall is always on our agenda. In 2024 – 25 planning consent was granted by East Lothian Council for the replacement of all the hall windows with new double-glazed units, and for the installation of solar panels on the village hall roof linked to battery storage. Having that consent in place meant that our focus in 2025 – 26 shifted towards seeking grant funding to enable the works to take place, and thus ensure that the hall remains fit for purpose and can continue as a vital community facility well into the future.

Applications for grant funding were made to:

National Lottery - Awards for All;
Scottish Government/ Local Energy Scotland Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES); and,
East Lothian Council Community Intervention Fund.

We were delighted that all three applications were successful as follows:

Funder	**Amount**	**Items funded**
Scottish Government/ Local Energy Scotland Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)	£11,540	Solar panels and battery storage
National Lottery – Awards for All	£10,000	New Windows
East Lothian Council Community Intervention Fund	£13,426	Solar panels and battery storage New windows

The grant funding enabled us to 100% fund the capital works to the village hall, all of which should reduce running costs and ensure that as a community we contribute towards the path to net zero.

The expenditure deadline for the CARES funding was extremely tight with the grant award made in late-December 2025, and a requirement for the grant to be spent by end-Feb 2026. However, with assistance from our contractor, XKY Energy Ltd, all work to install the solar panels and battery storage was completed before the funding



deadline. The Community Association would like to thank XKY Energy Ltd for their help in enabling us to achieve this very short turnaround between grant award and installation. The installation itself was trouble-free. The hall was closed to all users and we would like to thank them all for their patience while the work was undertaken. Thanks also go to our local community who were affected by the closure of the access road, and of the hall during this period.

Solar panel installation at New Winton Village Hall – February 2026

The need to focus on ensuring that the CARES grant was fully spent before end-February 2026 meant that work to replace the windows took place during summer 2026. Likewise, the Community Council grant, which was to enable the sanding and refinishing of the hall floor, and for new stage curtains, was also taken forward later in 2026. These activities will be reported on in the 2026 – 27 Annual report.



Solar panel installation at New Winton Village Hall – February 2026



Battery storage in place at New Winton Village Hall – February 2026

Financial Review

The committee are once again to be commended for their sound running of the charity. I was impressed to see that the charity has raised £35k from 3 major donors. I am pleased to know this £35k has been fully spent, £14k on on Solar Panels with Battery Storage, the balance on Double Glazed Windows. The windows were purchased after the 5th April 2026 so that expense will be shown in next year's accounts.

When a charity receives a grant to be spent on a specified activity, this is known as a restricted grant (because there are restrictions on how it can be spent). By contrast, unrestricted income can be spent on anything the charity wishes to spend it on.

The OSCR return requires restricted income and expenditure to be separately recorded from unrestricted. This year's accounts have been presented in a new format which separately identifies the restricted and unrestricted activity.

The surplus on unrestricted activity can be spent however the charity chooses. This year the unrestricted surplus is £2.9k. Within the last 4 years only one year had a higher unrestricted surplus, that was 2024 when the surplus was £3.0k. The excellent result for this year is a reflection of the hard work and good management by the committee.

The committee has decided that the charity will retain ownership of the Solar Panels and Battery Storage. These are an asset with a significant value, consequently they are recorded on the charity's balance sheet. This is the first time the charity's accounts record an asset other than cash at bank. This asset has been deemed to have a 20 year useful life, so for 20 years there will be a depreciation expense in the accounts. Each year the value of the asset will reduce by the depreciation amount.

There were two other grants received this year. The Pencaitland Community Council grant (£1,000) is a restricted grant. It is to be spent on sanding and varnishing the floor of the hall, with any unspent amount going towards new curtains for the stage in the hall. The Changeworks grant (£220) is also restricted, to be spent on items which will improve the energy efficiency of the hall. On the 5th April 2026 neither of these grants had been spent.

This has been an excellent year for the charity. The charity's finances are in a good position.

Christian Davis, FCCA

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

New Winton Community Association aims to keep 3 months' operating costs in reserve in case of a sudden and dramatic loss of income; at the time of writing this is equal to £625. In addition to this, we aim to keep in reserve a fund for repairs. As a historic building in a conservation area, New Winton village hall requires maintenance of the building, for example the stonework, windows and roof, and the interior, for example the electrics and plumbing. To this end, the NWCA transfers £50 per month to our reserves to allow for sudden, potentially high repair costs.

Donated facilities and services

We have been fortunate to receive the services of Christian Davis FCCA, for free. As an impartial non-resident, Mr Davis compiles New Winton Community Association's accounts on an annual basis, for submission to OSCR for analysis.

We also benefit from the numerous volunteers who donate their time and talents. While they are too numerous to mention individually, we do wish to extend our thanks to Bill Fulton who maintains our website for us.

Future plans

Next year, we plan to continue to make the village hall available to local groups and users, and to organise events for our community to enjoy. We will be assessing the effectiveness of our actions to keep running costs down and will be considering any further actions necessary to maintain the hall in a fit-for-purpose condition. We plan to continue to make the hall available at an affordable rate for local users and community events.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name

Designation

Date