

Aultbea Hall – Interim Management Committee

Monday 07 February 2022

19.00 hrs. 4, Laide IV22 2NB

- I. Andy welcomed all to this first meeting of the interim management committee of Aultbea Hall.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Pauline; Fee; Jean; Mike.
Apologies: Martin.
- III. **New Business**
 - a) Financial Position - In Martin's absence, Andy reported that there had been but one financial transaction since the interim Trustees took over last October, which was to pay an invoice of £106+ to Aultbea Hub for the facilities of the Church of Scotland as the venue for the Public Meeting called by the resigning trustees. Martin has completed preparing the 2021 Accounts which will be presented to the AGM.
We still await the card reader to enable online access to the accounts.
 - b) Funding Applications - Pauline and Fee detailed the various funding applications which have been made in recent weeks. We already know that we have been granted £1005 by the North Highland Initiative (CSP Fund) to repair the fences, replace the wall sign and purchase refuse bins to improve the external appearance of the Hall.
The Highland Council area panel considering our application to the Place-based Investment Programme for c.£8,600 for fire security and the toilets in the two-storey block is meeting on Wednesday 9 February and we are hopeful that there will be a positive outcome. We meet the criteria and an award is recommended.
We have responded to further enquiries from the allocated Awards for All funding officer with respect to our application for £9,700 for ceiling repairs and essential electrical work, including fire alarms. We do not have a date for the outcome of this application yet.
Fee is ready to send in an application to Tesco's Community Fund for equipment for the kitchen which would enable the primary school children to prepare feasts.
We intend to ask the Ward Discretionary Fund to support us with the costs of legal fees, reconnecting the water and electricity, and possibly installation of phone and internet. With all these, we have built in a 10% contingency and a £3,000 contribution from community fund-raising.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Despite the strong winds of recent days, the roof has stayed on the Hall and there has been no storm damage, confirming Jonathon's assessment of its stability.
Colin described the extensive clearing-out tasks that he had been undertaking throughout the building over the past few weeks, and some of the issues arising from blocked drains and pipes, high and low. He will help the Men's Shed to remove their pews on Tuesday 8 February. He is now concentrating on the accumulated debris below the stage which will require borrowing an industrial hoover. Only once this is clear will it be possible to ascertain the source and extent of the damp. The back wall is dry. Football nets will be kept and repaired and the future of the polling booths ascertained.

- d) IT and Media - Both the website and Facebook are very close to going live, thanks to Jen and Lyle's collaboration. The 'Donate' button needs to link to our bank account. We are looking for memories about the Hall in times gone by - the dance bands being one possibility to pursue.
Andy will consider how best we can streamline our use of Slack as it is confusing as to what should be posted where and by whom.
- e) Fundraising - Various ideas are now being generated as to events and activities that would raise funds, both for the project work and hall maintenance (insurance/utility bills etc). We also see engaging the community as a priority. Heather has agreed to be the coordinator. Current ideas include: fashion show; a 'not the raft race' on the Friday of the Jubilee bank holiday week-end; and a raffle through the season with quality prizes, launched at the AGM. Martin has agreed to do the necessary admin for the raffle.
- f) Community engagement - Mike has submitted an advert to GDT for the 24 February 'drop-in' sessions and will put posters up wherever possible. Our message must be consistent and stress that our remit is 'No Hall => Old Hall', concentrating on the short-term reopening of the facilities for the community.
- g) Risk assessments/volunteer coordination - Jean has prepared risk assessment sheets for working in the Hall which will be available both in the building and in the Slack documents folder. First Aid kit and hand sanitiser are provided. A 'signing-in' sheet should be filled in by everyone working in the Hall.
The Men's Shed and Laide Wood will be asked if they will share their risk assessment templates for when using power tools.
Jean agreed to review the Risk Assessment completed by the Old Trustees in relation to the vacant building's risks.
- h) The 'drop in' session scheduled for 24 February - will give local residents the opportunity to meet us and see our plans to reopen the Hall. We will have a form available to sign up to support the two phase project if people are willing, and also opportunity to donate.
- i) AGM - The deadline to submit notice of the AGM (to be held on Thursday 7 April) is the GDT of 11 March in order to give the required period of notice. As well as the usual business, there will be a resolution to conditionally dissolve the Trust and transfer all assets to a new Aultbea Hall SCIO. Pauline has used the recommended template to draft a relevant SCIO constitution, checked this through with Andy and Fee, and aims to complete the application to OSCR later this week. It can take 6 months for OSCR to complete the process.

IV. **Any Other Business**

- i) In response to an enquiry, it is assumed that the Hall is on the public sewer
- ii) Joyce is to be asked if she is willing to take on the duties of ordering and checking materials and purchases. (*She has agreed!*)

- V. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 February 19.00 hrs at Andy's.

The meeting ended at 20.40 hrs.