

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Monday 13 June 2022

19.00 hrs. 4, Laide IV22 2NB

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting, including Joyce to her first 'in person' session.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Joyce; Pauline; Fee; Jean; Martin; Mike (Zoom).
Apologies: Heather; Jen.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Martin provided an overview of the current financial situation, having received the takings from the two recent community-based fund-raising events and after paying all resulting expenses. About £2000 has been raised from the raffle so far, and tickets are out for sale for about the same amount.
After another frustrating delay, we are still waiting for the Bank of Scotland to set up the SCIO account.
Given that there is sufficient money now in our reserves, and a pressing need to progress the project to ensure we can claim before the end September deadline for the PBIP grant coming via Highland Council, we agreed to give the green light to Phase I work on the two-storey block with immediate effect.
 - b) Funding Applications - Pauline has identified those funding organisations to which we might realistically apply for grants for Phase II of the project and will submit applications as per the deadlines and requirements of each funder as soon as we have firm quotations for the work to be undertaken to get the main hall reopened.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Andy and Colin met today with the local contractors who will be working on the internal repairs. They recognise the time scales involved. Colin and his volunteer team will now strip out the redundant electrical cabling. Jean and Fee will review the placing of electrical sockets etc. The donated pie heater has arrived! The application to reconnect the water supply is working its way through the system, and Joyce will now start the same process for reinstating an electricity supply.
 - d) IT and Media - Social media publicity for the Jubilee flotilla and street party event had been very effective - thanks to Jen. Pauline will submit an update article to GDT for the 1 July edition.
 - e) Fundraising
 - i) The Jubilee evening had gone exceptionally well, thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers, and being blessed by perfect weather. Our next potential fund-raiser is the Boom Beach car boot sale on 1 August. We will offer to run the BBQ again (helpers are available!) and Jean will put in a bid to AAT to take on the tea tent, though we may not be allocated this.
 - ii) We will organise an event, in October we hope, to celebrate the re-opening of the Hall. Maybe pie and beans and music?
 - f) Community engagement - We will offer to host an evening social, at 4, Laide, for the group of German visitors who are booked at Gruinard Bay campsite for a week in July.

- g) Risk assessments/volunteer coordination - The existing risk assessments for working in the Hall cover the removal of surface-mounted electrical wiring. Those volunteering to help are all suitably experienced and ever more local people are offering their skilled services.
- h) Constitutional - Nothing has yet been received from OSCR to progress the transfer of property from the Trust to the new SCIO.
- i) Procurement - Joyce will confirm with Highland Alarms that we accept their quotation and arrange a start date. All other contractors should be starting work imminently.
- k) Facebook & website - Both are being updated regularly.

IV. **New Business**

- a) Press officer - We are pleased to accept Jane Rowe's offer to take on liaison with the regional press (Ross-shire Journal; West Highland News; Alba ...) to broaden publicity for the project. We should remember to take photos of the work ongoing. The completion of Phase I work and reopening of the two-storey section were seen to be the best launch pad for such publicity and to renew the request for donations. We should also ensure that we secure memories of the Hall from local residents.
- b) Phase II - We need to progress the discussions with Highland Council officers over building warrant requirements with some urgency to keep up the momentum of the project. The best way to strengthen the roof supports is still to be settled. We will also now request firm quotations for the internal and external work needed to put the Hall back into use. The contractors working on site will be asked for costings. Some non-essential, though highly desirable, improvements (such as heat pumps) could be the basis of a Phase III.

V. **Any Other Business**

Donations: Painted Horse Antiques have given us a vintage internal notice board and we have also received six hanging basket frames for the external wall.

VI. **The next business meeting** is scheduled for Monday, 18 July, 19.00 hrs at Andy's.

The meeting ended at 20.30 hrs.