

Aultbea Hall Revival May 2022

progress report

As always, the wheels of constitutional change seem to grind somewhat slowly. But we are getting there! Aultbea Hall is now registered as a SCIO with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) which makes the organisation more secure and enable us to submit grant applications to a greater number of potential funders than before. We will soon be working on more detailed estimates for the repair and renovation work required to make the main hall functional to see what financial help there is out there. Often it takes several months for decisions to be reached, so these applications need to be made whilst the community events and raffle ticket selling are ongoing. And the more 'match-funding' we can demonstrate, the more likely it is that we will attract external support.

At the AGM on 7 April we were delighted to recruit five more members to the committee and, following OSCR's guidance and as required by the 1960 Deed of Trust, the new committee formally appointed the three 'trustees' who had kept matters going since the public meeting last October.

Immediately following the AGM, those attending the community meeting resolved unanimously to transfer the assets of the historic Aultbea Trust to Aultbea Hall [SCIO] in due course and then dissolve the redundant organisation. Another necessary constitutional milestone was to register the Trust as a charity in its own right. This also has been completed. Now the procedures required to get OSCR's permission for the transfer of the building and associated land are underway. This may take some months yet but it's all moving in the right direction.

Given the donations which have been received and grants we have already, most of the estimated costs for undertaking the Phase I work to repair and reopen the two-storey section of the building are now funded. Much of the work has to be completed by the end of September to satisfy the conditions of the substantial Place-based Investment Programme grant awarded via Highland Council, so there should be contractor vans outside the Hall very soon – and a new sign on the wall to encourage us all to keep the momentum going!