

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 15 November 2022

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Joyce; Pauline; Fee; Jean; Martin; Jon (Zoom); Jen (Zoom); Heather (Zoom).
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Martin had circulated an overview of the current financial situation. The balance of Fun Day monies has now come into our account. The unexpected cost of a new hot water cylinder, with associated plumbing, has been met, and our balance is sufficient to meet the remaining known expenses for this part of the Revival! project. Martin is aiming to manoeuvre the bank accounts, with a view to all income and expenditure being operated via the SCIO account from 1 January 2023.
 - b) Funding Applications - As we had heard nothing from Highland Council with respect to our Expression of Interest for Community Regeneration Funding (submitted late September), Fee has been in contact with councillors. Liz Kraft, who is the designated councillor for our area, has been extremely prompt and helpful in responding and we should know more after a Council meeting of 17 November. Pauline will move on a number of funding applications to trusts as soon as quotes are available.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Given the weather-prompted urgency of the drainage work, the committee agreed to authorise the immediate moving of the container and an exploratory excavation to divert the water, pending a thorough investigation of the best longer-term solution which we can include in our Phase II funding applications. Andy has purchased some dye to check out whether the water at the front of the hall is coming from below the stage, as we think to be the case.
Hand driers and heaters are now installed, so our local contractors have completed all that is possible until the electrical connections are made; we are extremely grateful for everything that they have done, over and above the specifics of the work originally identified.
Chris Ross has done a sterling job in preparing the walls for the painters. All paint required has now been purchased and delivered. Painting of the high level areas has been started, but is hampered by the lack of light.
 - d) IT and Media - Jen reported that we continue to attract new followers to Facebook, and we are posting content shared from other local groups.
Jen will adjust the website gauge to reflect the Phase I and Phase II fundraising targets more accurately.
Andy read out a letter he had received from Jane Rowe, tendering her resignation as Press Officer. The committee expressed its regrets and hopes she will continue to help with the Aultbea Hall Revival! project. Andy will respond to Jane to this effect.

- e) Fundraising
- i) Raffle: distribution of the remaining prizes is underway.
 - ii) The Poolewe dance was successful beyond our expectations. Once we have our own venue, we can resume the 'traditional' Aultbea Hall events, recognising that Halloween has a particular significance for Poolewe. We acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the generosity and efforts of so many helpers who gave their services pro bono. Heather and Fee will investigate the requirements for serving alcohol at such events, as we may need to have people with their own personal licences, appropriately trained, on occasion.
 - iii) We discussed the viability of a fashion show next spring but need to ensure that we would have sufficient interest before we commit.
 - iv) Organising the Fiona Kennedy concert and the commissioning of T shirts are both on hold until we have a venue in which to celebrate.
 - v) After discussion, we agreed with Colin's proposal that we would work towards a family/community event at the Boom on Saturday 6 May, the day of the Coronation. Fee will check out the availability of the site and any potential clash with other groups' planning.
- f) Risk assessments - Jean has devised a comprehensive rota to cover all the painting requirements and has contacted the volunteers who offered to help. Once she has clarified the extent of help available from the Men's Shed, she will be able to organise deployment and finalise the risk assessments for each room/area. It is hoped that we can provide enough light for the work by using generators and battery lights short-term.
- g) Constitutional - OSCR moved very quickly early in November to confirm that we can proceed with the next stages of asset transfer. The solicitor is now drawing up the necessary deeds.
- h) Procurement - Joyce has spent many frustrating hours trying to secure a firm date for EDF to fit the meter after two 'no-shows', no reason given. She has now completed an additional form to book an appointment. There is a complaints procedure which we may need to resort to should there be no satisfactory outcome in the near future. When our electrician and fire alarm contractors return to complete their Phase I work, they will be asked to provide quotes for the extensions which will be necessary for Phase II - Main Hall. Given the problems of damp penetration, we have taken advice and agreed to purchase oil-based masonry paint for the seaward side. Jean will order it, and Martin offered to collect. We need to ascertain how best to paint or seal the fire doors and kitchen door.

IV. **Phase II**

- a) Jon has received a response from Scott Ramsay as to the further information he requires with respect to our application to Building Control. This is not perceived to be too onerous. When he is back in Aultbea, Jon will prepare a report on the north face concrete buttresses, which require some attention, and undertake conclusive testing to determine whether welding or bolting is the better solution to the steel support issues. We have found the 2019 list of actions needed, to which Scott made reference, most of which have been undertaken as part of the repair work to date.
- b) As well as quotes to complete the electrical and fire security work for the main hall, we will need to include the costs of work on the escape doors, main hall doors, floor coverings and sealing and replacement equipment in our calculations as to what still needs to be funded.

V. **Any Other Business**

- i) Pauline has given Mike some thoughts, based on her experience of the adult grant, on the expectations of applications to the Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for young people, bearing in mind that activities will be the remit of community user groups.
- ii) Although we will need to be careful about how we mount them on the walls, we would like to exhibit Aultbea Hall memorabilia to the public in due course, so welcome any contributions ongoing.
- iii) Fee is submitting an Aultbea Hall Christmas tree for the GALE centre display and competition, based on people's memories of the Hall. We will need to use social media to encourage voting in person for our tree - cash prizes!!
- iv) Messages on our Slack platform are now disappearing after 30 days. Andy has secured a free upgrade for one month which gives us time to retrieve any important posts and attachments, but, thereafter, we do not think it worth paying the fee to maintain this channel of communication, other than for very short term conversations.

VI. **The next business meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday 15 December**, 19.00hrs, at Andy's.

The meeting ended at 20.40 hrs.