

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Wednesday 14 December 2022

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Joyce; Pauline; Fee; Jean (Zoom); Jen (Zoom).
Apologies: Jon; Martin; Heather.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Martin had circulated an overview of the current financial situation, together with a very useful breakdown by the different sources of income, donations and fundraising events. We now have two SCIO-related bank accounts, a Treasurer's and a Deposit. Monies from the Trust accounts will be transferred in the near future with the intention that, from 1 January, our new financial year, we will only be operating via the SCIO accounts for all purposes. This will be part of the asset transfer evidenced to OSCR when we make our application to finalise the dissolution of the Trust after the AGM.
 - b) Funding Applications - We were invited to submit an application to Highland Council's Regeneration Development Fund, with a very tight deadline (9 December). Our ever-helpful local contractors responded by providing detailed quotations which came to £74K, somewhat more than we had anticipated. We have committed £11K of our own funds as match funding, hope to secure the same amount from other grant givers and will do our best to get the most votes for the next Tesco Community Fund (blue tokens) round in the Ullapool store for our Cook up Feast! equipment bid. This will bring in between £500 and £1500 depending on how many votes we get. Pauline will now work on making funding applications to trusts, and we will launch a further appeal for donations once the two-storey block is open.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Joyce continues to follow up the official complaint made to EDF which has generated an appropriate response, though no date has yet been given for the actual installation of the meter. Some more painting has been undertaken but all is currently stalled, given the freezing temperatures. The temporary drainage work would appear to be helping considerably, with no further ingress of water to the Hall. We need to purchase fire extinguishers.
 - d) IT and Media - Jen is putting new posts onto Facebook to focus on the GALE Memories Christmas tree display vote and the snowman outside the Hall (another Colin design!). An email was sent to all on the supporters list to alert them to the GALE display and the reasons for the delay in completing Phase I.
 - e) Fundraising
One or two raffle prizes have not found their winners yet - Fiona is working on this. We will consider using the Coronation family event as an opportunity for a raffle, and also the launch of the T-shirts. Other plans are on hold until we can celebrate the opening of the two-storey block officially. We will also have a 'thank you' session for our supporters.

- f) Risk assessments - Jean meets the new volunteer painters in person to go through the risk assessments and will prepare documentation for cleaning procedures when they are needed. She will also check out what cleaning materials and equipment will have to be purchased.
- g) Constitutional - The poor travel conditions of late have delayed the delivery of paper-work to the solicitor in Tain to enable the land transfers from the Trust to Aultbea Hall [SCIO] to be finalised. Andy now hopes to do this on Friday (16th). Other than the bank account balances, we are not aware of any other assets that will need to be transferred.

IV. **Phase II**

In Jon's absence, we do not know if there has been any progress with the steel support testing and provision of the details requested by HC for advancing the building warrant. The repairs needed to rectify the issues that Highland Council know about from the original closure of the Hall will be included. Although some external work will be possible without it, should we be successful in our current funding application (which requires partial grant spend before March 2023), most of what is planned will not be possible until we have the necessary permissions. Andy will contact Jon to get an update.

V. **Any Other Business**

- i) As part of the application for funding to the Regeneration Fund, Pauline included the three risk assessments already in place and drafted two policies to demonstrate that we have the relevant expertise amongst our committee members to write and implement expected policies and procedures. These, and others, will be considered at a forthcoming committee meeting.
- ii) Before the AGM, we will need to implement a membership scheme for Aultbea Hall [SCIO]. There will be no fee to join. It should be an agenda item for our next meeting.

VI. **The next business meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday 10 January 19.00hrs, at Andy's.

The meeting ended at 19.45 hrs.