

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 10 January 2023

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Pauline; Jon; Fee; Jean; Jen (Zoom); Mike (Zoom); Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Colin; Joyce.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Martin had circulated an overview of the 2022 finances. All monies in the two Trust bank accounts were transferred at year end to the SCIO accounts. As of 3 January, we will only be operating via the SCIO accounts for all purposes. The Trust bank accounts will be closed once the accounts are finalised and submitted to OSCR. Martin will ascertain with OSCR how long the 'Trust' charity information will remain visible on their website once the processes of dissolution are finalised. The 2023 accounts should be considerably less complex to organise and explain.
 - b) 2023 AGMs - The two AGMs required, one for each charity, will be run consecutively on Tuesday 28 March. Details will be confirmed at our February committee meeting.
 - c) Trustees Reports for the two charities - We have to report separately to OSCR for the two charities currently being run in tandem. The committee endorsed Pauline's draft, already circulated, of the Trustees Report for the charitable trust. Amendments will be made to make it relevant to Aultbea Hall [SCIO].
 - d) Funding Applications - We have yet to have any feedback from Highland Council about our application to the Community Regeneration Fund. Pauline has started applying for smaller grants from various trusts and foundations and will be able to do more applications once we have the independently examined 2022 accounts.
 - e) Ongoing Works - Joyce continues to follow up the official complaint made to EDF which has yet to produce any date for the actual installation of the meter, despite her ongoing prompting. All painting is currently stalled, given the weather and lack of power. We have received a substantial invoice for maintenance of the fire alarm system. As it has not yet been commissioned, Joyce will be asked to liaise with the company. The temporary drainage trench has certainly reduced water penetration into the Hall foundations. There is still some damp on the toilet walls, which may well be resolved by further painting. We are very grateful to Don and Gordon for further *pro bono* work.
 - f) IT and Media - Jen has signposted the *Coronation Capers* event planned for 6 May on Facebook and our website. She will archive some of the material to reduce clutter.
 - g) Fundraising - It was agreed that MacLennan Park will be the most suitable venue for the *Coronation Capers*. Heather will visit the firm who have quoted for T-shirts with a view to having some to sell for that event. She also proposed we plan to have a 'local heroes' 2024 calendar for sale later in the year, which was agreed in principle.

As we still have no date for electricity reconnection, we cannot progress planning for opening events or Fiona Kennedy's concert offer. Fee will investigate the availability of quality sound equipment for that.

- h) Community engagement - Mike is in contact with Steve Macdonald with a view to having social spaces for young people in the Hall, once it opens. We are aware of other potential users and recognise that organising bookings and the management of events and maintenance at the Hall will require a group of willing volunteers, over and beyond the current committee members.
- i) Constitutional - Andy delivered the paperwork required by the Tain solicitor to process the re-registration of the Aultbea Hall properties before Christmas, though we now have to resubmit one form which was damaged. The solicitor assures us that the re-registration formalities should be finalised in the very near future. Pauline will draft a form as required for SCIO membership. This will initially be available on paper and for online download. There is no membership fee, nor annual renewal which makes the admin. easier, though we could explore paying for an online scheme.

IV. **Phase II**

Jon brought along the actual frame 9 material having, with help from Colin and Murdo Macrae, undertaken rigorous testing of the proposed method of welding plates to the steel supports. He has found no corrosion beyond that identified in his initial investigations. There is no doubt that the method of repair intended delivers at least double the required strength. He will now progress submitting the final details and drawings as required to progress Building Control permissions. Repair work will also be needed to the concrete buttresses but the nature and costs of this cannot be finalised until the steel support work is completed. The committee expressed its gratitude to Jon for delivering on this substantial survey and report.

V. **Any Other Business**

- i) The monies in the collection boxes at both Aultbea Stores and Laide Post Office continue to demonstrate the generosity of local people in supporting the Hall project.
- ii) It was agreed that any raffles for 2023 would be focussed on specific events.
- iii) Once we have an opening date for the two-storey block and/or are successful with a grant application, we will be able to launch the appeal for donations towards Phase II of Aultbea Hall Revival!.

VI. **The next business meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday 7 February 19.00hrs, at Andy's.

The meeting ended at 20.25 hrs.