

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 16 May 2023

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Pauline; Bruce; Jon (Zoom); Fee; Jean; Jen (Zoom); Mike (Zoom); Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Joyce.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the up-to-date accounts and his report prior to the meeting. OSCR have now advised that we use 1 January as our reporting date for the SCIO accounts with an explanation as to why no income is recorded for 2022. The bank balance is currently healthy after the very successful *Coronation Capers* (one more bill to come) and the payment of two of the Phase II grants.
 - b) OSCR - All paperwork with respect to the reorganisation and transfer of assets has been submitted to and accepted by OSCR and the 'Aultbea Community Centre & Football Field Trust' will be removed from the Charities Register on 20 June.
 - c) Funding Applications
We have been granted £6,766 from the National Lottery Awards for All Scotland programme which has meant that, adding to recent donations and other grant offers, we have met the funding target to be able to commit to Phase II of our project - the repair and renovation work for the main Hall. The Tesco Community Fund has awarded us £500. There are no more applications in process.
 - d) Ongoing Works - Although Joyce has enquired further, we still have not yet had notice of any contract for our electricity supply. Fire extinguishers have been installed and certificated. Our drainage improvements are scheduled to be done late June, pipe and gravel/chippings can now be ordered. The location of the mains water has been checked, and Colin will ensure he knows where the electricity cables run before the work commences. It is still not clear how Highland Council intend to progress their drainage plans.
All electrical equipment has been PAT tested, by a qualified volunteer. After discussion, it was agreed that Jean order one fridge and a basic cooker to replace items which failed the testing. Jonathon has offered a second fridge which Colin will arrange to collect.
Jean has bought cleaning and other necessary materials as the two-storey block comes into use. In due course, it would make sense to set up an account with MacGregors for such purchases.
 - e) IT and Media - Facebook has been regularly updated, with excellent interaction for the *Capers* postings. The availability of T-shirts - which can be mailed out (one already en route to Jamaica!) - and the Tesco award can now be publicised. Jon will provide some information about the steel work repairs, and further details about what is planned for Phase II repair and renovation can also be included. Another GDT article has been submitted for the 19 May edition.

- f) Fundraising - It was agreed to host a 'thank you' BBQ for our Phase I volunteers on Thursday 15 June, 5-7.30ish. Pauline will collate the list of those to be invited; we all need to ensure that no-one has been missed off, before personal invitations are sent out. Both Andy and Heather will resume contact with Runrig members who may be willing and able to support our fundraising. Heather and Jen are collaborating in the further sale of T-shirts. Our next fund-raising community event after the highly successful *Coronation Capers* will be a raft flotilla on Saturday, 5 August, with tea tent, BBQ and raffle to generate income. Colin is recruiting for the Runrig raft crew!
- g) Membership and Gift Aid - The Committee approved further membership applications. Gift Aid forms are being returned on request, though Pauline still awaits approval from HMRC that she take on the authorised official role.
- h) Hall use - For the time being, we will allow local groups to make bookings for the two-storey facilities on an informal basis. Mike has informed the Sports Coordinator that the room upstairs is now available for activities. We need to recruit a committee member who will take responsibility for organising bookings, advise on the range of fees and link with the school to ascertain how they would like to use the building next term. A possible volunteer will be asked. We recognise that fund-raising will be essential, ongoing, to cover standing and maintenance charges and that we do not yet know the cost of electricity. Nor has it yet been confirmed that the Hall will be exempted from non-domestic rates and water charges, though we have submitted the required applications, given to understand that we are eligible in both respects. We also need to resolve how to guarantee collection of the refuse bins.
- i) Risk assessments - Jean will ensure that the necessary policies and risk assessments are put in place ready for use of the two-storey block.

V. **Phase II**

Jon has spent a considerable amount of time trying to progress building control permissions, given that Highland Council have not been able to validate his design proposals from their own resources. An Inverness company is willing to undertake a desk study and a site visit, at a reasonable cost, to provide the certification required. They may wish to undertake additional load-bearing testing. Jon will aim to confirm a site visit date in the first half of June.

VI. **Any Other Business**

- i) Our MP is now involved with pressing the case for the Post Office to provide outreach facilities in the Hall. If this succeeds, then a phone line will be installed.
- ii) There was discussion about progressing the installation of broadband sooner rather than later, and about the strength of mobile phone signals in the Hall. Jon and Andy will check out what is currently possible.
- iii) Heather is inviting others to join her on the Edinburgh Kiltwalk in September to raise funds for *Aultbea Hall Revival!* More details and Facebook posts to come.

VII. **The next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 6 June, in the Hall if Zoom will work there.

The meeting ended at 20.40 hrs.