

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 6 June 2023

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting - the first we have held in Aultbea Hall.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Pauline; Bruce; Fee; Jen (Zoom); Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Jean; Joyce.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the up-to-date accounts and his report prior to the meeting. The bank balance has been enhanced by the proceeds of a sponsored walk, a generous anonymous donation and the contents of the donations boxes from the two shops. No responses have yet been received from the submission of paperwork to exempt us from rates and water charges. Payment of the insurance invoice is now due.
 - b) Funding Applications
We have been informed that the National Lottery will, this week, publicise their award of a grant for our project. Pauline will update the organisations which have offered us substantial grants of our progress towards meeting their conditions as soon as we know the outcomes of the external assessment of the intentions for the steel works.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Although Joyce continues to enquire, we still have not yet had notice of a contract for our electricity supply.
After discussion, we agreed that Andy should contact Highland Council again to express our concerns about their intentions to install just a soak-away for the excess water coming from across the road. He will propose that the plans be amended to take the excess water into the new pipe we are installing behind the Hall, which will divert it away from the fire exit/wheelchair access door. It is still intended that our drainage work will be undertaken from the end of June.
Colin has an offer of help to repair the external concrete buttresses. He can provide labour! Our volunteer electrician will be asked to wire in the new cooker and he has also offered to strip out the last of the removable old wiring in the main hall.
 - d) IT and Media - Facebook has been regularly updated, with ongoing good interaction. Photos and draft text to recognise the sponsored walk will be provided.
Another GDT article will be submitted for the 16 June edition.
 - e) Fundraising - The 'thank you' event for our Phase I volunteers will now be on Thursday 22 June, 5-7.30ish. Pauline will send out the invitations this week; Fee will coordinate food. Arrangements are in hand for the flotilla event. The new owners of Aultbea Hotel are hoping to be able to assist, depending on the progress of their plans. There is also the possibility of a car boot sale being organised alongside. The Community Council will be asked to provide their usual cover. Colin (postie) has already offered to be D.J. for which we are very grateful. T-shirt sales are steady, with a number going abroad. Further outlets are being explored.
 - f) Gift Aid - Pauline is now our Registered Official for Gift Aid claiming and is hoping to submit the HMRC form in the near future.

- g) Hall use - Jean has circulated a report following a meeting that she and Fee held with a volunteer who is willing to take on the organisation of bookings, provided there is cover for when she is away. Fee is liaising with her and our website/email provider to set up an online booking system and she will be invited to attend committee meetings. We agreed that £8 an hour was a reasonable charge for the use of all currently available facilities. How to invoice and pay has yet to be decided. We also discussed, but have not yet finalised, the access and security arrangements. A considerable quantity of good quality kitchen equipment, crockery and cutlery has been donated from a house clearance. As well as Jean, Colin has offered to help with cleaning ongoing. Jean is also working on providing the necessary guidance for, and expectations of, hall users.

V. **Phase II**

The site visit to check out the condition of the building and the structural repair recommendations is scheduled for 13 June. We very much hope that this will result in a speedy recommendation to Highland Council that all building control conditions related to the two-storey block have been fully complied with, and that the detailed steel works planned more than meet their requirements.

VI. **Any Other Business**

Andy will contact Tony Panciroli to discuss whether the installation of an external aerial would enable low-cost IT provision to be set up for the Hall sooner rather than later.

VII. **The next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 11 July in the Hall.

The meeting ended at 20.00 hrs.