

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 29 August 2023

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Pauline; Kerry Ann (Zoom); Bruce; Jon; Fee; Jean; Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Joyce; Jen.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated income and expenditure figures to date. A meeting has been held with our potential independent examiner for the 2023 SCIO accounts.
 - b) OSCR - Nothing to report
 - c) Funding Applications - The first project report has been submitted to the Hugh Fraser Foundation. It confirms that we have all the funding commitments required and explains why we have yet to draw down their £8K award.
 - d) Ongoing Works - Although Joyce continues to enquire, we still have not yet had notice of a contract from EDF for our electricity supply. Colin is keeping a record of usage to date.
A quotation has been received from Macleod and Mitchell for the gravel for the drainage works.
 - e) IT and Media - The internet provision is meeting user requirements.
It was agreed that we could now announce on Facebook that the Crow's Nest is available for bookings; Kerry Ann and Jen to liaise about the details to be added to the 'Bookings' tab on our website. Pauline will request GDT add the contact details to their *local information* page.
 - f) Fundraising - There are still customers for our T-shirts. The Flotilla day was a very successful occasion, both with respect to funds raised, and the community involvement evident and the Hotel also benefitted. It does though look increasingly unlikely that there will be events in the main Hall this year.
 - g) Community engagement - Pauline confirmed that Gift Aid forms are routinely sent to any donor for whom we have contact information.
 - h) Hall use - Jean has finalised the various booking forms and fire instructions. There is now an Assembly Point notice on the container in the car park opposite. Health and Safety/risk assessment forms are near completion. Jean checked out who would be responsible for various aspects. She will undertake and record routine alarm checks, once Colin has shown her the procedures. We very much appreciate her dealing with all this paperwork!

The various users of the Crow's Nest to date have been very pleased with the facilities. Pauline will be sending out invoices towards the end of each month. The Perfume Studio has offered to donate catering equipment and crockery as they close at the end of this season and Jean will check out what would be useful.

V. Phase II

Jon explained and illustrated the various issues that he has had to grapple with to meet the amendments to the load/stress details and construction design that the consultant civil engineer has required following his visit. Adjustments can be made, and additional repairs planned, to meet a very heavy wind load on the structure. However, the strengthening that would be necessary to meet a catastrophic snow/ice loading are neither technically realistic nor economically viable. We all agreed with the proposal that had been discussed with the consultant, namely that the issue would be dealt with procedurally: that is, there would be absolutely no use of the Hall in seriously adverse weather conditions (just as is the case with the new Forth Road Bridge). Once he has undertaken a further load test this week, Jon will be able to complete the revision to the drawings and analysis and report back to the consultants to request their verification approval. He is confident that Building Control permission will be granted very speedily thereafter.

VI. The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 September in the Hall.

The meeting ended at 19.55 hrs.