

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 7 November 2023

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Joyce; Pauline; Kerry Ann (Zoom); Bruce; Jean; Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Fee; Jen.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated income and expenditure figures to date and drew attention to some of the recent transactions, one being the very generous donation via the Perfume Studio, consequent of their café closure, from those who collected equipment/fittings making a contribution to *Aultbea Hall Revival!*. This has been acknowledged on Facebook and via GDT, and Pauline will now write on behalf of the Committee to thank Adrian, Katie and David. Further invoices relating to the drainage work are being paid. To date, those hiring the Crow's Nest are paying their dues promptly.
 - b) Funding Applications - Pauline will investigate whether now it an appropriate time to apply to the North Highland Initiative for support for heating costs, now that we actually have a bill!
 - c) Ongoing Works - An invoice has recently been received from EDF for electricity supplied over the past 6 months, though it was sent to the wrong address. Joyce has followed this through and believes she has succeeded in changing the correspondence address to that of our SCIO. As the bill was based on estimated usage, the accurate readings have now been supplied, which may result in an adjustment of the total. In the meantime though, it was agreed to pay the invoice as it stands. It was noted (and EDF was informed) that the smart meter installed does not work as there is no signal. Joyce has been able to view account information online, but not the contract details.
The drainage work is underway, with the work at the rear of the Hall completed. There is now a functioning light outside the door (with thanks to Jock).
 - d) Facebook posts are ticking over nicely with 606 followers and good engagement: drainage and T-shirts have featured of late, and 'Festive Fun' is being promoted.
 - e) Fundraising - Heather detailed some of the planning for 29 December. Games and activities will be arranged! Some very pleasing offers have been made from two hotels and a garden centre for raffle prizes, as well as attractive individual contributions.
 - e) Community engagement - Kerry Ann explained that she and another parent are organising two community Christmas parties for 8 December. We are delighted that Bualnaluib School pupils are going to make some decorations for the Crow's Nest. Further to the Christmas period arrangements, various boxes have been located which contain previously-used ornaments and Colin will source at least one real Christmas tree.

Andy is meeting the new High Life Highland-employed Youth Worker for our area soon and will offer to show her the facilities we can provide at present. Steven MacDonald, the Active Schools Coordinator, is also interested to see our premises. Kerry Ann reported that the Crow's Nest has been booked by West Highland College for a weekly song-writing course, starting in late January and that the postponed MSP surgery is now being held on 10 November.

- f) Hall use - The Fire Plans (A3 size) are now on the walls, upstairs and down, as well as online.
Jean has purchased a bin suitable for the accessible toilet.
The routine Alarms check has recently been undertaken. Having discussed this with the contractor, Colin reported that it is likely that dust is the reason an alarm would sound without due cause.

IV. **Phase II**

Jon continues to revise his drawings and calculations with respect to what is required for the steel supports, in discussion with the consulting engineers. HC have agreed to a further extension to the deadline for securing Building Control approval in light of the unavoidable delays. Andy will try to get an update of how matters have progressed recently.

- V. There being No Other Business, the next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 5 December in the Hall.

The meeting ended at 19.50 hrs.