

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 5 December 2023

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Joyce; Pauline; Kerry Ann (Zoom); Bruce; Jon (Zoom); Fee; Jean; Jen (Zoom); Heather (Zoom).
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated income and expenditure figures to date. Two significant payments, for drainage work and the EDF electricity invoice, had been paid in November, without significant new income. EDF have sent (to the correct address!) various recalculations of our electricity bills, the outcome being a relatively small bill for September-November. Joyce is providing a monthly meter reading.
 - b) Funding Applications - Pauline had contacted North Highland Initiative with respect to funding support for our energy bills. The advice given was that it might be more advantageous for us to submit an application early in 2024 to support planned energy efficiency work, rather than towards the actual costs of electricity supply.
 - c) Ongoing Works - The drainage work and reinstatement of the ground to the front and side of the Hall has now been completed. There is now considerably less damp under the stage. We note that Gairloch quarry is now owned by Pat Munro. As we understand it, following a site visit, Highland Council are progressing their plans to install a crossing from the Nursery and to construct two gullies to improve the drainage on that side of the road.
 - d) IT and media - Facebook posts are being sustained. Jen is working on an 'end-of-year' graphic with photos to summarise our achievements this year in bringing the Hall back into community use. Adverts have been placed in December GDT issues for the Festive Fun event.
 - e) Fundraising - Planning is well underway for 29 December and offers of help were made. Raffle tickets will only be sold on the night, with instant prize-giving. We clarified that this particular event is not intended for under-13s and will direct enquirers to the family parties being held in the Crow's Nest on 8 December. There has been a recent increase in the sale of T-shirts.
 - f) Community engagement/use of Hall - We agreed that our 2024 SCIO AGM should be scheduled for end March and will confirm the date at the next meeting. Some decorations are already in place in the Crow's Nest, with Christmas tree and Bualnaluib School contributions on their way. The risk assessments needed for forthcoming events are being prepared. It was noted that care needs to be taken to wipe condensation from the stairs in very cold weather, as of late. Colin proposed installing Kingspan at ceiling level, which will be further explored as a way to resolve the issue. Fee has a curtain which may fit the Crow's Nest doorway to cut down on heat loss.

Additional bookings are being made which include sessions organised by the Active Schools Coordinator from mid-January, a song-writing course weekly end January-March, and possibly an evening yoga slot and a marine film night.

IV. **Phase II**

Jon explained that he is experiencing further delays in his efforts to liaise with the civil engineering company so that he can finalise the drawings and calculations. Andy will contact them to explain how important it is to complete the resubmission work required, given the terms of the grants on offer.

V. **Any Other Business**

i) Miles has completed PAT reports on the electrical equipment donated by the Perfume Studio. Every item passed.

ii) Colin reminded us of the clearing work that will be required once work begins on the Hall.

VI. The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 23 January, unless there are significant developments in the interim.

The meeting ended at 19.50 hrs.