

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 20 February 2024

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Joyce; Pauline; Bruce; Fee (Zoom); Jen (Zoom); Jon (for Phase II).
Apologies: Jean; Kerry Ann; Heather.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the income and expenditure figures for 2024 to date. We have received payment of the first grant tranche from the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF). Significant donations continue to be collected from the boxes in both Laide Post Office and Aultbea Stores.
 - b) Funding Applications - Pauline has been in correspondence with the Hugh Fraser Foundation and we anticipate payment of their grant soon now that work has begun on Phase II.
The CRF claim (fully paid) included the additional costs of the drainage and the first payment to HGA for their work reviewing the building warrant documentation. This means that we have used up almost all of the contingency allowance of the grant. Colin will prompt those contractors who have yet to provide evidence of their public liability insurance so that we can meet HC's requirements on this matter. The requested schedule revision also awaits further information.
The North Highland Initiative's Community Infrastructure Support scheme is now open for applications. Pauline will submit a request for a grant towards the planned installation of energy-efficient heating and lighting in the main Hall as soon as we have received a revised quotation for the equipment costs.
Also, once we have quotations for the work envisaged, we will put together a request to GAMS for support towards improving accessibility, both inside and out.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Nothing to report
 - d) IT and media - Jen reported that there is increased activity on Facebook as more groups are using the Crow's Nest. Posts in the next few weeks will highlight the AGM and the Easter Gathering/Car Boot Sale. Pauline will put a related report into GDT for the 1 March issue.
 - e) Fundraising - Planning is underway for the Easter week-end events, with another 'Not the Raft Race' scheduled for Saturday 3 August.
 - f) Community engagement/use of Hall - Pauline is working on the notices and communications required for the AGM on Tuesday 19 March at 7.30 pm in the Crow's Nest. Refreshments will be provided. We have potential new recruits to join the Committee and all existing members are willing to continue.
We will use the AGM as an opportunity to encourage more local people to sign up as members (no fee) as this demonstrates support for the project.
Pauline intends to submit the Gift Aid claim to HMRC in the near future.
All invoices for lettings are paid to date, with only one reminder having had to be sent.

- g) Procurement - The new floor coverings for the kitchen were completed very promptly last week, thanks to Murdo Macdonald and Clanco of Inverness.
Whilst EDF are still intending to operate via remote meter readings, Joyce continues to provide them with monthly information as there is no mobile signal.

IV. **Phase II**

Following a meeting of all directly concerned on Saturday 17 February, revised costings for the extra steel required and a realistic schedule for work required to strengthen the roof supports are being prepared. Some of the floor work will be undertaken by Colin and his willing volunteers, which will be a great help.

V. **Any Other Business**

- i) The bad weather is hindering Highland Council's completion of their improvement works outside the Hall. It is understood that the soil border will be grassed in due course.
- ii) It was agreed to purchase and fit a baby-changing table in the accessible toilet. Joyce will put in the order.
- iii) There is no funding available now, or likely in the future, for any Post Office provision in Aultbea Hall.
- iv) In response to a query: we have no discussions ongoing with ARC at present, though there could well be collaboration in the future, once the Hall is reopened.

- VI. The next Committee meeting will be after the AGM, on Tuesday 2 April, 7pm.

The meeting ended at 19.55 hrs.