

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 9 July 2024

19.00 hrs.

I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.

II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin B; Pauline; Kerry Ann; Colin I; Bruce; Fee; Jen (Zoom); Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Jon, Joyce, Jean.

III. **Existing Business**

a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the income and expenditure figures for 2024 to date. For June, he noted specifically the two payments for steel work fabrication and installation and the receipt of the second grant instalment from CRF.

Pauline has submitted a Corporation Tax return, with guidance from our independent examiner. As a small charity, we are claiming exemption but still had to work through the paperwork.

b) Funding Applications - Pauline had prepared an overview of the current Phase II situation with respect to grants paid, expenditure incurred to date and the quotations for the work still to be done for which we currently have estimates. We anticipate that the joinery and general repairs will require more funding than originally expected but we have the resources to complete the work, provided there are no significant extra costs.

Although their grant has now been spent, reports will continue to be made at 6-monthly intervals to the Hugh Fraser Foundation until the project is complete.

The second claim for an interim payment from the CRF (Highland Council) grant was processed within three days, which is impressive. We can make one more claim for invoice reimbursement in due course, but the final 10% of grant payment is not made until the project is completed and evaluation reports submitted.

We still await quotations for the work envisaged to improve accessibility (Phase III) to enable us to compile a request to GAMS for financial support. We are aware of the supplementary information required by our building control officer and hope that this can be provided in the near future.

c) Ongoing Works - Timber is needed for the main Hall floor, now the steel supports are in place. Colin will arrange the order for this and volunteers are on hand to undertake the work.

d) IT and media - The Facebook page has been very active of late, with promotion for the Flotilla event, reports of the steel work installation and the erection of the yurt for community use. That 4 supporters, including Heather and Jen, are participating in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk on 15 September, as a fundraiser for our cause, has also been flagged up.

Pauline will submit an article and photographs to GDT for its 19 July edition, and, with background information also, for consideration by the *Ross-shire Journal*.

- e) Fundraising - Heather is organising the T-shirts by size for sale at the Flotilla event. She has also gathered prizes for the raffle, though we will request further offers via social media. She apologised for being unavoidably absent for the event but will do all possible to help in advance.
Arrangements for the Flotilla are well in hand, with First Aider, safety boats, registration forms and risk assessments already sorted. Fee is resolving the ordering of the BBQ supplies. Jean will take on the tea tent planning.
Pauline has registered *Aultbea Hall Revival!* as a fundraising charity on the JustGiving website, including the Gift aid option. Jen is undertaking the promotion of the Kiltwalk on the site. More than £500 has already been donated through this portal. We should use the opportunity of the Flotilla to canvass further sponsorship.
Planning for our intended opening event and end-of-year activities is on hold until we can be sure of the dates. We are aware that applications for the necessary licences will have to be made in good time.
- f) Community engagement/use of Hall - Highlife Highland have booked the *Crow's Nest* for four sessions of summer activities for young people in July. Sing Loch Ewe, Yoga and the Community Council continue with regular bookings.
On 6 July, Fee organised a team of volunteers to erect the community yurt at the end of the Hall for the summer weeks. She will request that Laide Community Wood transfer formal ownership of the yurt to Aultbea Hall [SCIO] for a nominal sum so that we can arrange appropriate insurance.
- g) Risk assessments/volunteer coordination -
We will ask Jean to review the risk assessments for working in the main Hall now that the steel supports are in place.
- h) Procurement - There is still no update from EDF as to meter or invoice progress. Joyce continues to provide monthly readings.

IV. **Phase II**

Following Jon's submission of the Notice Regarding Start of Work, we had a visit from Scott Ramsay, HC Building Control Officer, on 25 June. Notes of his requirements and observations have been circulated. Some extra work is needed with respect to fire doors but, overall, he provided helpful advice and appeared to be satisfied with the work undertaken and planned.

The steel roof supports were installed on 26 June. Colin and his volunteers helped to ensure a very efficient operation and have since tightened all the bolts. We need to check with the electrician whether he wishes to put in cabling before the floor is reinstated. Colin will discuss the programme of work required with our other preferred contractors as soon as possible. We hope that they will be available shortly to maintain recent progress.

It is noted that the rotten stairs to the side of the stage have been removed and access to that area will be blocked off until reinstatement in the longer term.

V. **Any Other Business**

Colin I. has ascertained that it would be possible for Radio Wester Ross to transmit an outside broadcast from the Hall, maybe for Hogmanay, should opportunity arise.

VI. The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday 6 August, 7pm.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 20.00 hrs.