

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 5 November 2024

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin B; Joyce; Pauline; Kerry Ann; Bruce; Fee; Jean; Jen (Zoom).
Apologies: Colin I; Heather.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the income and expenditure figures for 2024 to end October. A substantial invoice has been paid for the second set of fire doors, and the Public Entertainment licence fee has been paid. The bank accounts associated with the unincorporated Aultbea Community Hall have now been closed.
 - b) Funding Applications - After correspondence and discussion, the officer responsible for our CRF (via Highland Council) grant is in the process of authorising the revised *Aultbea Hall Revival!* Phase II budget and timescale. To meet the increased expenditure, Aultbea Hall [SCIO] will be committing more of its own monies, made possible by the generosity of individual donors and event fund-raising over the extended time-scale. He was complimentary about the efficiency of our project management.
We are awaiting the outcome of a GAMS Board meeting to ascertain whether they are willing to help with the costs of improving accessibility. (Update 6 November: they will meet half of the estimated costs.)
It would appear that Aultbea is not eligible to apply to the current SSE Hydro Community Fund, though Gairloch is!
 - c) Ongoing Works - Chris Ross has done a great job in repairing the floor of the Hall after the installation of the steelwork. We are exceedingly grateful!
 - d) IT and media - Jen has ensured that our Facebook pages continue to be active. The floor work and T-shirt travels to Disneyland have been recent posts receiving good responses.
 - e) Fundraising & Events - We now plan to have a 'family' social gathering on Friday 27 December. The online poll indicates that a 4pm start is preferred.
We discussed, at some length, how we might contribute to the VE Day celebrations in May 2025. It remains unclear what might be encouraged, possibly with funding support, at a national level. Planning will begin for a community 'tea' party, with a strong school involvement, probably 8 May, with a dance the previous Saturday. Kerry Ann will reply to the Arctic Convoy Museum enquiry as to Hall availability for that week. They will then be able to book the Hall for activities that they wish to host in their own right, or in collaboration with other local organisations.
 - f) Community engagement/use of Hall - The Art Group have resumed sessions in the *Crow's Nest*. Various ad hoc bookings, including one-off group meetings and Christmas parties, are now coming in and we understand that further *Active Schools* sessions are being planned.

- g) Risk assessments/volunteer coordination - Jean has submitted the application for a Public Entertainment Licence and received a quick response indicating further documentation required. This includes the most recent PAT report, which Colin will provide, and a policy for Safeguarding and Welfare. A draft for this has been circulated which the Committee ratified, subject to minor amendments and checking of the implications for family-organised parties which include children. Our *Conditions of Let* will be updated to include specific points of the new policy. We know that the application process cannot be completed until we have an Electrical Safety Report and a Completion certificate.
- h) Procurement - There is still no update from EDF as to smart meter checking nor have any bills been received this year, though monthly readings continue to be submitted.

IV. **Phase II**

- i) At the end of the meeting, we had a close look at the safety implications of the new steel supports for various activities that might take place in the Hall, and will decide what guards and netting will be needed after consultation with potential users. The proposed boxing-in and benches in the alcoves will be an attractive feature.
- ii) Now that the floor is finished and the stipulated fire doors have arrived, we all recognise the imperative to install the new electrics and undertake the joinery fitting and repairs. Andy will contact our preferred contractors to emphasise the urgency of completing the jobs required to make the Hall ready for reopening and to secure work dates.

V. **Any Other Business**

The Nursery are in the process of finding a contractor to build the necessary concrete platform so they can install a container for the storage of their play equipment which is currently in the Hall kitchen.

VI. The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday 3 December, 7pm.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 20.20 hrs.