

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 3 December 2024

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin B; Pauline; Kerry Ann (Zoom); Colin I (Zoom); Bruce; Fee; Jean.
Apologies: Joyce; Jen; Heather.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the income and expenditure figures for 2024 to end November. There was no expenditure last month, with income only from *Crow's Nest* rentals and the Aultbea Stores donations box.
 - b) Funding Applications - Confirmation has been received that the proposed changes to the funding agreement for the Community Regeneration grant (some details of the work to be undertaken and our increased contribution) have been authorised. Liz Kraft, our local councillor, has strongly endorsed our project. Our third repayment claim should be submitted as soon as possible. The final 5% of eligible costs cannot be reclaimed until the project is completed.
GAMS have confirmed that they will meet half of the quoted costs of the external accessibility improvements. The contractor has committed to completing this by end February 2025 and Pauline has provided GAMS with the information requested to secure the grant.
 - c) Ongoing Works - No further volunteer-delivered improvements in the main Hall can be undertaken until the electrical and fire door installations are completed.
Kerry Ann and Colin raised the issue of the extreme condensation that had been evident on walls and floors as a consequence of the wide temperature fluctuations from one day to the next at the end of November. Given the need to mitigate against hazardous slip conditions for users, it was agreed that Colin should organise the purchase and installation of thermostatically controlled tubular heaters in five or six locations.
 - d) IT and media - Our Facebook posts currently are concentrating on the Festive Family Fun Event after Christmas.
 - e) Fundraising & Events - It is looking increasingly likely that our May VE Day-related dance will be the opening event. No reply has yet been received from Bualnaluib School as to any plans they may have for that week. Kerry Ann will inform the Arctic Convoy project accordingly, so they can make arrangements for any event they may wish to hold in their own right, or in collaboration with other local organisations.
 - f) Community engagement/use of Hall - We agreed a provisional date of 11 March for the 2025 AGM, with 8 April in reserve - to be confirmed in January. Membership will be promoted in advance.
 - g) Risk assessments/volunteer coordination - We have the necessary PAT reports to meet the requirements for the Public Entertainment Licence. Pauline and Kerry Ann have

considered what amendments should be made on the Conditions of Let, consequent of the Safeguarding Policy. Their draft was approved. It was agreed that the initial standard rental for the main Hall would be set at £10 per hour.

- 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) Despite ongoing prompts, we still have no firm dates for the commencement of the essential work from our electrician and joiner. Andy will continue to press that they commit to undertake the contracted work as a matter of urgency.
- ii) Andy has been informed by the Highland Council officer that it would be in order to add the external accessibility work now planned to the existing Building Warrant application. There will be a fee for this. Colin will liaise with Jonathon to request that he progress the necessary amendments to our existing submissions.

V. **Any Other Business**

We already have one offer, and there is the possibility of a second, of a donation of stamp collections to benefit our project funds. Expert advice is needed, so Fee will post a Facebook request to see if that is available locally, before we look more widely.

- VI. The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday 14 January, 7pm.

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