



Aultbea Hall [SCIO] Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 19 March 2024
19.30 hrs. The Crow's Nest, Aultbea Hall

Andy Townsend, Chairman, welcomed 34 residents of Aultbea Community Council area to the second AGM of Aultbea Hall [SCIO] of whom 32 were current members (2 having given their proxy votes) and 2 non-members.

1. Apologies

Paul de Mornay Davies; Chloe Hall; Jennifer MacIver; Jenny Maslin; David & Mary Weekes.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 28 March 2023

The Minutes were agreed by all to be a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Trustees Report for the year ending 31 December 2023

All papers for the AGM had been available on the Aultbea Hall website. Andy highlighted how much had been going on behind the scenes to finalise the transition of the original Trust to a SCIO organisation. All bank balances, property (Hall and land) and equipment have now been transferred. He thanked Pauline and Fee for their efforts in this respect.

As is evident, a lot of work has been undertaken to make the two-storey block fully operational. New electricity and fire security systems have been installed throughout the whole building. As well as our local contractors, he wished to thank the many volunteers who have committed so much time and effort under Colin, our task-master. Jean has ensured that all necessary risk assessments and health and safety requirements are in place.

Phase II is now well underway, with the essential building warrant having been secured. The consultant engineers have built in long-term resilience to the structural support repairs required. We are very grateful to Jonathan Jury for giving so much time to resolving all the issues. We are currently sourcing further quotations to ensure that the steel work contract can demonstrate value for money, and hope that a start will soon be made on the internal work to bring the main hall back into use. Owing to the inevitably increased costs, given the delays, we need to continue to raise funds to finance the full scale of the work we wish to undertake.

4. Financial Report and Accounts for year ending 31 December 2023

The financial statements are published on the website. They have been independently examined. Bruce, our Treasurer, has ensured that our financial transactions are in order. He thanked the individuals, shops/cafés and grant givers who have contributed so generously in 2023 to our appeals for donations to keep our project on track. Highland Council has been particularly supportive. Further grant payments have been made in 2024, which helps our cash flow.

The Financial Report was accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

5. Election of Board members

All five currently elected Board members - Pauline Butler, Bruce Jeffrey, Fiona Mackenzie, Jean Ross and Andrew Townsend - are willing to continue for another year. There being no other nominations, they were duly elected unanimously.

The constitution allows for up to four co-opted members. Colin Bell and Joyce Bell are willing to continue on the Board, and Kerry Ann Darlington and Colin Irvine, who already support the organisation in various volunteer ways, have also offered to join. These nominations were accepted by all present. We also expressed our appreciation to Jen Turner, who keeps the social media and website active, and Heather Wiseman, who helps with many aspects of fund-raising (including the T-shirt enterprise) and events.

6. Any Other Business

- i) It was noted that a number of local activity groups regularly book the Crow's Nest for their sessions and that various community events have been held here since it reopened.
- ii) In response to a query as to the timescale of the internal repairs, Andy said it was hoped that the Hall would be available for local children to use again before the winter, and for an end-of-year community event.
- iii) The external drainage work, part of the Phase II project, was welcomed, as was the road improvement work undertaken recently by Highland Council which had also served to improve our access.

7. Close of Annual General Meeting 2024

The AGM business was concluded at 7.50pm.

Everyone was invited to have a good look around at the improvements made.

Refreshments were served.