

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 5 August 2025

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin B; Joyce; Pauline; Kerry Ann (Zoom); Bruce; Colin I; Fee; Jean; Heather; Amelia; Ellie; Mel.
Apologies: Jen.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures for July 2025. Income was from the usual sources; expenditure included the cost of external repairs in order to enable the painting to be undertaken and the most recent electricity bill. This took into account a credit of £332 as a consequence of our successful submission for a VAT rebate and refund of the Climate Levy elements of our bills, given the grant-aided renovations.
 - b) Funding Applications - The external painting has been completed. Once the invoice has been received, Pauline will be able to finalise the report for the North Highland Initiative grant - the final one of the ten which have supported *Aultbea Hall Revival!*.
 - c) Minor Works - There has been some damage to the gable end of the Crow's Nest, which is being looked at with a view to speedy repair.
 - d) Ongoing works - Don has offered to advise on the specialised painting of the main Hall, which will need to be coordinated with bookings and school use. Pauline offered to help with the re-painting required in the toilets and circulation areas.
Colin has an offer of help to make the rear stage door weatherproof.
 - e) Flotilla - This had been very successful, both in terms of the funds raised, and the enjoyment of the participants and visitors. The extra dimension of the luggers had attracted welcome bonus interest. Next year, Fee advised that there should be a meeting of the volunteers to check out 'last minute' arrangements, and, ideally, there would be a couple more helpers as those setting up and running the activities were stretched to meet demand.
 - f) IT and media - There had been plenty of good quality post-Flotilla postings. Pauline has drafted a report for the next GDT.
 - g) Fundraising - Kindling is now finding buyers. There are good stocks still.
 - h) Future events -
West Fest, 13 September: Kerry Ann will contact the organiser in good time to ascertain any specific requirements and ensure that the Conditions of Let are fully understood. We note that our Public Entertainment Licence does not cover performances outside the building.

Wedding Tea, 20 September: Arrangements are progressing. Heather has taken and passed the Personal Licence qualification and awaits confirmation of registration with the Highland Council. In consultation with her, Andy will submit the application for an Occasional Licence (deadline 16 August).

Hogmanay: The Occasional Licence application needs to be submitted by 26 November. After further correspondence, the expense of presenting a concert by Fiona Kennedy would seem to be beyond our resources. We will continue to explore other possibilities, including having a talent show, (not competition), next Spring, with a particular encouragement for younger performers.

Pauline will enquire of West Coast Arts if they are interested to put Aultbea Hall on their performance venue list for 2026 onwards and we invited suggestions for future activities and events from our junior representatives.

- i) Community engagement/use of Hall - There have been no further problems with access, as we now have two keys available. The Tuesday Yoga group has agreed to be responsible for making their own arrangements for advance heating of the room, on a trial basis.
The Badminton doubles tournament on 31 July was very successful. The profit from the event is to be donated to Hall funds.
The School will confirm what use it wishes to make of the Hall at the start of the autumn term.
Pauline and Heather are progressing the installation of window curtains in the Hall. A quotation for the cost of making-up and estimates for the purchase of materials have been received. We may not need to purchase curtain poles as planned, given a past donation which is in store.
In due course, we intend to replace the stage curtains - this will be expensive!
After discussion, we will reconfigure the various pictures on the walls of the Crow's Nest, enabling Sing Loch Ewe to have a wall space to meet their needs, and inviting the Monday Art Group to use one or two of the AO frames available to display their work.
- j) Risk Assessments - Our Conditions of Let require external users to have appropriate Risk Assessments in place. Kerry Ann monitors this. We have a suite of our own on the website for reference and for others to use as templates. Jean will prepare one for the 'Wedding Tea' in liaison with Heather.
Kerry Ann and Colin will arrange a practice Fire Drill to take place during one of the Badminton sessions.
We very much welcome the attendance of two junior representatives at Committee meetings. PVG regulations require that they be accompanied, which Mel is willing to do.
- k) Procurement - Given the already high and now increasing cost of service checks from Highland Alarms, Joyce has contacted two other companies for quotations. Logic have responded with a much lower annual charge for two visits. Our current contract takes us into 2026 so we do not need an August appointment, but Joyce will enquire whether we can sign to a contract that will start in February 2026.

IV. Any Other Business

- The awards for the Village Hall Inspiration competition will be made known at the end of October. There are only about 10,000 eligible to apply!
- Jean suggested that we consider applying for an account with MacGregors for Hall consumables.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 9 September.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 20.10 hrs.