

## ***Aultbea Hall Management Committee***

Tuesday 8 July 2025

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin B; Joyce; Pauline; Kerry Ann; Bruce; Colin I; Fee; Heather (Zoom).  
Apologies: Jean; Jen.
- III. **Existing Business**
  - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures for June 2025. Expenditure included the considerably increased insurance invoice. Initial research into alternative provision was undertaken, without satisfactory outcome in the time available. Next year we will endeavour to find a more cost-effective policy which covers our land and marquee assets appropriately as well as standard 'village hall' aspects.  
Pauline has submitted the Business Rates form for Highland Council to renew our exemption. No response has yet been received.  
An invoice has been received, and paid, to cover the costs of the external wall repairs, prior to painting.
  - b) Funding Applications - There are additional admin/monitoring requirements for the North Highland Initiative grant which Pauline is managing.
  - c) Minor Works - Nothing to report.
  - d) Ongoing works - It was agreed that the floor work involved, and estimated costs, for changing the steel support installation in order to remove the four diagonals were not feasible. Andy will inform the steel engineers accordingly.  
The magnolia-coloured, oil-based paint has now been delivered. Don will undertake the external painting when the weather is suitable. The preparatory power-washing and all necessary concrete repairs have been completed.  
Colin B. agreed to co-ordinate a programme of internal painting.  
We have been informed that the hoped-for donation of paint for the roof will be forthcoming.
  - e) Midsummer Dance - This had been very successful. We note that our Public Entertainment Licence restricts us to a 1am close, which has to be abided by.  
We discussed at some length the details and implications for our events management of Highland Council's requirements for issuing Liquor licences. At least one holder of a Personal Alcohol Licence has to be present throughout, though not necessarily the applicant. The restrictions control the inclusion of children and young people, which must be taken into consideration in planning any function when alcohol is available. If we are to apply for an Occasional Licence for the proposed September 'Wedding Tea', this needs to be submitted very soon. Fee offered to help Heather with the necessary planning.  
Andy will circulate links to the on-line Personal Licence training. Three committee members have offered to take on the responsibilities of being Personal Licence holders. The arrangements for stewarding, and the various risk assessments and policies prepared for the Dance, had all proved realistic in practice.

The continuous clearing of cans (e.t.c.) throughout the evening had been very useful (thanks to Debbie and Kerry Ann). A can-crusher would have helped and Heather offered one for future events.

Additional provision needs to be made for the smokers, given the littering around the building. We also need to check for remaining sticky patches on the Hall floor after the initial cleaning.

- f) IT and media - Jen continues to post frequent updates on our ongoing T-shirt ventures across the world and the summer Flotilla event, for which both raffle prizes and baking are being requested.  
It was accepted that more financial information should be provided to the public as to the takings from our fund-raising events, though recognising that this could provide a misleading understanding as to the 'profits'.
- g) Fundraising - T-shirts continue to find occasional buyers. The Hotel may take more, and they can also be sold at the Flotilla event.
- h) Future events - Insurance through the Community Council has been confirmed for the 2 August Flotilla event. First Aid and the Safety Boat have been organised. Fee has also secured the appearance of the luggers from Tanera, weather permitting, which will be an excellent additional attraction. Jean is organising the tea tent - to open at 1pm. The Flotilla is scheduled for 3pm. Colin B. has arranged for other volunteers to run the BBQ.

West Fest, 13 September: the organiser is meeting with Ewe Brew next week. We do not yet know the extent to which help will be required on the day.

Wedding Tea, 20 September: this will be a ticketed event. There is a lot to organise over and above dealing with the alcohol licence requirements.

Hogmanay: Recovery are booked for 31 December. Our current plans are to hold a family event (disco?) 3-5pm and an over-18s dance from 9-1am. Colin I. noted that his customary radio Hogmanay programme will be broadcast live at the same time, probably from Ullapool.

- i) Community engagement/use of Hall - The School now has a key and a second one will be given to Fee for those who collect.  
As, from now on, there will be no Nursery staff available to put on the heating in advance, the Tuesday Yoga group will be asked to make their own arrangements to come in a little earlier to warm the room.  
There are now regular Badminton sessions on a Thursday evening. The School will confirm what use it wishes to make of the Hall at the start of the autumn term.

Jean has circulated a paper to explain the new PVG regulations to ensure that we are able to advise those hiring our facilities for relevant activities, if necessary. As stipulated in our *Conditions of Let*, the organising group is responsible for ensuring that the legal requirements are being met.

Pauline and Heather are progressing the installation of curtains in the Hall.

- j) Procurement - The electricity invoice for the period 1 March-6 June (just received) should reflect the adjustments to be made following our successful submission for a VAT rebate and refund of the Climate Levy elements of our electricity bills since reconnection in 2023.  
Highland Alarms have informed us that their prices have increased by 5%. Joyce is investigating whether there is another company who can undertake the annual service and certification at a more reasonable rate.

#### **IV. Any Other Business**

- Pauline has submitted an application to the Village Inspiration Award. Decisions will be known by the end of October.
- There is rain ingress during stormy weather through the Fire Exit doors. Colin B. will ask our joiner for advice as to how this can be rectified.
- The School has requested consideration of making the internal fire door closure less risky for young fingers. We will check but think the specifications won't allow for alterations.
- At the most recent Community Council meeting, it was proposed that the Hall put up external lights, as part of village Christmas decorations. We all agreed that this was both impractical and inadvisable given likely weather conditions but that we would welcome additional help with decorations inside the Hall, visible to passers-by.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 5 August.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 20.45 hrs.