

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 13 January 2026

19.00 hrs.

I. Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Pauline; Kerry Ann; Amelia; Mel; Bruce; Jean; Heather (Zoom).
Apologies: Joyce; Fee; Jen.

III. Existing Business

- a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures to end December 2025, together with a comparative overview of income and expenditure for the past 4 years.
It will be May before we can review a full year's operating costs for our facilities. However, the projection for 2026 is that necessary running costs would amount to about £7.5K, and, in addition to that, we should budget for £5K of general repairs (excluding the roof works for which we have already budgeted). This gives us a target of £12.5K to be raised through booking fees, fundraising events, sales, and donations, appreciating that donations, both individual and through the boxes in the two shops, are likely to reduce considerably given that the Hall is perceived by the community to be fully functioning now.
There was discussion about our current charging practices, be it for entry to events such as the ceilidhs, or for drink sales, as these are lower than those of other village halls. It is recognised that we need to encourage the community to engage with what we offer, but we must also be realistic about the need to raise revenue to ensure our viability. Whilst it is difficult to predict the scale of attendance at events, we must also be mindful not to be over-stocked - it's a difficult balance!
Pauline has submitted the Gift Aid claim for 2025 donations.
- b) Minor works - Colin will endeavour to arrange the necessary plumbing repairs (upstairs kitchen tap and gents' toilet) and wiring in of two trickle heaters before he is away next month.
- c) Ongoing Works - Once the weather improves in the spring, the roof can receive both its second coat of paint and new tape.
Two quotations have been received for the replacement of the rotten metal sheeting on the vertical section of the roof. Jean will arrange an independent review of the terms of each to recommend the better option, which we will confirm at our next meeting.
The Hall curtains are now in place and have been welcomed as improving its ambience.
A meeting of interested parties has been convened for Saturday 17 January to begin the detailed planning and costing of the stage renovation project. Once estimates have been received, Pauline will have a better idea which funders might be approached for grant support.
- d) Licenses - A local resident has expressed interest in becoming a Personal Licence holder to support Hall events. Pauline will contact her with the details to see if she is willing to undertake the training and testing involved.
- e) Risk Assessments and PVG Registration - Risk assessments were implemented for the three events we organised over the festive period. There are no issues arising.

- f) IT and media - Jen will be asked to promote use of the Hall by families and groups for parties and play sessions. The revised Conditions of Let and Booking Forms need to be posted on the website.
- h) Fundraising - There have been further sales of T-shirts. We should renew advertising the kindling available.
- i) Hall events - The four events in December (Children's Christmas Party on 12th; Christmas Fayre and Table-top Sale on 13th; Family Ceilidh on 20th; Hogmanay Dance on 31st) were all very successful and enjoyable. They brought many people to the Hall, with compliments both for the Christmas decorations and for the renovation work more generally. Thanks to Chris Cooper, we now have six additional fold-up tables.
Future events we plan to organise ourselves include:
- AGM Monday, 9 March 7.30 pm in the Crow's Nest. The necessary administration is underway and refreshments will be available. If all current members continue to serve, we have one vacancy for a co-opted member.
- Chris Cooper is offering the Hall committee the opportunity to run the Pop-up Café at the Easter Table-top Sale on 4 April as a fund-raiser, which we will accept. Kerry Ann will reply.
- Talent Show, evening of 20 June: Heather explained the arrangements being progressed. Bualnaluib School is interested to be involved with ideas to include an arts and crafts display in the Crow's Nest.
- West Fest 2026: The Committee endorsed the suggestions from Fee and Ffyona of HTSI that the week-end of 23/24 October could work for a Friday evening family ceilidh and a Saturday of various workshops and activities involving a number of local groups. It was proposed that, once some of these proposals were explored further, Ffyona should be invited to a committee meeting to discuss them. We need to ensure that at least some of the activities will generate income for Hall funds.
- j) Community engagement / use of Hall - All regular groups have now been issued with the revised Conditions of Let and Booking Form.
Zumba sessions are scheduled to begin on 16 January. Jen will be asked to promote bookings for family/group parties and children's play sessions.
A proposal that the Hall install gym equipment for community use was discussed. Although we recognise the potential benefits for Aultbea area residents, we do not have the storage space nor qualified staffing to manage such a facility, even were we to raise the funds that would be required.
- k) PVG - Andy will pass on to Jean some information he was given at a recent PVG training session.
- l) Procurement - Logic Alarms have confirmed their original quotation for servicing our Fire Security, so Colin and Joyce will be the contacts for arranging visits and Bruce, as Treasurer, will deal with the invoices. Once the new contract is signed, Joyce will inform our current providers that their services are no longer required.

IV. Any Other Business

We reminded ourselves of the schedule for Fire Extinguisher servicing, PAT testing and Fire Evacuation practice for the coming year.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 10 February 2026.

There being no other business, the formal meeting ended at 20.40 hrs.