

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 19 May 2026

19.00 hrs.

I. Jean welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

III. Existing Business

- a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures updated to end April 2026, which included useful income from the Easter Egg Hunt event and Pop-up Café. There were also some sales of T-shirts and tote bags via Aultbea Hotel. At our next meeting we will be able to review the (not project-related) income and expenditure for our first 12 months of being fully open. It was agreed to delete the rarely-used 'Donate' (PayPal) button on the website and provide contact information in its place, should anyone wish to support us financially.
- b) Minor works - Colin will follow up the intention to install a new cistern for the Gents, to resolve the long-standing flow problem. He also hopes to be able to paint the roof of the two-storey block next month, given fair weather and loan of the machinery. We have had feedback from the School that our fire doors are potentially hazardous for the fingers of young people, Chris (Ross) will slow the closure mechanism as a first effort to reduce the risk. Colin will order the 'anti-slip' tape for the stair treads.
- c) Ongoing Works - Jean has a possible contact who might be able to advise on the installation of stage lighting. Pauline has had a positive response from two potential funders, so hopes to progress the stage restoration project after the recent hiatus. We understand that Roddie still has August on his schedule for the work on the vertical section of the roof. Jean will check with Andrew whether or not it is advisable to coat the two wooden fences. Miles has PAT-tested all electrical equipment, with every item passing except for an extension lead. We are very grateful for his continuing to undertake this at no cost. It was agreed that a new long extension reel would be useful. There may be one available as a donation, if it passes the PAT test, otherwise we will purchase one.
- d) Licenses - A local resident has recently had confirmation of her Personal Licence registration with Highland Council and is available to help with the Talent Show.
- e) IT and media - Rebecca has now taken on responsibility for our social media and website, following a meeting with Jen. She shared a number of ideas for developing both, including a new page on the website to record the official re-opening of the Hall by HRH the Princess Royal, and using Facebook to promote hire of the Hall for leisure activities. We are grateful for the recent Pickleball donations, as recently posted.
- f) Fundraising - No reports.
- g) Hall events / bookings
Official re-opening of Aultbea Hall by HRH The Princess Royal, 12 May: All arrangements had gone to plan, the sun shone and those invited very much appreciated the occasion. Aultbea Hotel and a number of bakers had provided excellent post-event refreshments, which we had supplemented with an order from Blasta Bakes. Mel is interested to arrange a reminiscence session to collect memories of Aultbea Hall in times past. Pauline is hoping that this might be recorded so that a permanent archive is

held in Gairloch Museum, which could also contribute to its 2027 Anniversary project and exhibition, *50 Years - 50 Voices*.

West Coast Arts, 30 May: The Sorries concert is booked for the Hall, using the stage.

Pauline and Bruce will be available to support the organisers, should Kerry Ann be away.

Talent Show, 20 June: Highland Council's decision on the Licence application is awaited.

Post-meeting, Heather advised on the arrangements which are well in hand.)

Aultbea Flotilla, 1 August: No further details were available. If we cannot include the Flotilla in our next Hall Insurance renewal (due end June), we will need to request ACC to arrange this, as they did last year. The August Market will be on Monday 3rd.

West Fest & Dance October 2026: *(Post-meeting, Fee advised that she is still waiting for confirmation as to preferences and availability for the dates available.)*

Mel and Kerry Ann are beginning to plan for a children's party / event in late October.

After the HRH event, the representatives from Gairloch Aid and Mobility Support (GAMS), spoke to Pauline on two matters of relevance to the Hall:

i) Given the initial booking by WCA for a concert in the Crow's Nest, which is not fully accessible, they wondered if there was any way a lift could be installed which they might help to fund. We discussed the idea but cannot see that this would be feasible, given building constraints. However, we are committed to ensure that those with mobility challenges are able to attend all public events, so we agreed to amend our Conditions of Let to include a clause to this effect.

ii) GAMS are interested to support the provision of a venue in every village that would be available to the community as a warm space, with food and drink provision, should there be a longer-term electricity outage or other emergency. We agreed that we would indicate our willingness to offer the Hall as one such venue and help with costings for funding, should they be able to progress this idea. Our response will also be sent to ACC, as they are currently working with Highland Council on a Resilience Plan.

h) Community engagement / use of Hall -

There have been no recent issues with key access or hall heating. Bualnaluib School are returning for their Friday sessions from this week.

Future bookings include an SSEN Drop-in session on 8 June, a birthday party for a local family and a Highland Council consultation day in September.

i) Risk Assessments & PVG - No recent activity to report.

j) Procurement - MacGregor's undertook the routine check of the fire extinguishers on 27 April. None needed to be replaced, though there may be changes in regulations soon which will require the decommissioning of foam extinguishers.

IV. Any Other Business

A meeting was arranged for 26 May, 7pm in the Crow's Nest, for those willing to review our current Hall insurance schedule, with a view to revising it to meet our current needs (including to cover the Flotilla event) and at a lower cost, if possible. Three or four brokers who offer village hall-specific policies have been identified. Jean, Rebecca and Bruce expressed interest to help Pauline with this matter (others welcome!).

Having checked Heather's availability, the **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 9 June 2026.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 20.05 hrs.