

Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 21 April 2026

19.00 hrs.

- I. Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Rebecca who has offered to take on the Facebook and website management from Jen.
- II. Attendees: Andy (Chair); Colin; Pauline; Kerry Ann; Fee; Bruce; Amelia; Mel; Rebecca; Jean.
Apologies: Heather.
- III. **Existing Business**
 - a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures updated to end March 2026. These included the winter electricity bill, but, otherwise, no unexpected income or expenditure. April has seen some useful income from the Easter events.
 - b) Minor works - The west end external roundel has been reinstated, having been repainted. Our plumber has repaired the dripping tap in the upstairs kitchen and recommends a new cistern for the Gents, to resolve the long-standing flow problem. Colin continues to work on the damp coming from outside - also in the Gents.
 - c) Ongoing Works - Colin has made good progress with the second coat of paint for the roof, and putting bitumen on the damaged vertical roof. Internally, the stairways have been repainted and the new carpet treads are in place. The Phase IV Stage project still awaits the consultant's report. It may be necessary to seek a different way forward. Sandy Crawford has given us some recommendations to improve the sound system. These will be incorporated into the project planning for grant applications in due course.
 - d) Licenses - A local resident has completed the training and testing involved in becoming a Personal Licence holder and awaits confirmation of her registration with Highland Council.
 - e) IT and media - We are very grateful to Rebecca for offering to take over from Jen as our social media and web-site administrator. Jen will support the transition.
 - f) Fundraising - Aultbea Hotel have sold c.£100 worth of tote bags and T-shirts and have been provided with more stock. Fee will discuss with Heather the feasibility of reordering T-shirts, or considering other branded items which we could design and sell.
 - g) Hall events/bookings

Easter Scavenger Hunt, 3 April: 47 children, plus accompanying adults, made this a very successful activity, both in terms of enjoyment and donations to Hall funds. A number of non-residents were welcomed.

Easter Tabletop Sale, 4 April: This was well supported by the community and the Pop-up Café generated £560 in donations.

West Coast Arts, 18 April: The return of WCA to the Hall (not, as originally booked, in The Crow's Nest) worked well. There was some confusion over the arrangements for the refreshments, but this was resolved amicably. WCA will be responsible for these at the second concert on 30 May. We hope to be fully integrated into the WCA programme for 2027.

Talent Show, 20 June: Andy will liaise with Heather for the licence application. Helpers were recruited.

Aultbea Flotilla, 1 August: Arrangements are in hand. Discussion took place as to how best to resolve the potential clash of this, our annual community fundraising event, with the August Aultbea Market currently advertised for the same day. Fee will speak with Chris to

agree that the Market be rescheduled as we see no benefit for either organisation in competing for visitor attendance and refreshment income.

West Fest 2026: Fee will check with Ffyona as to whether this is definitely intended to take place 23-24 October. If so, we will aim to have an autumn dance on the Friday, if Recovery are available that day. They are not able to play on 5 June.

- h) Community engagement / use of Hall - The 'new' chairs have been delivered. They are much easier to stack and set out and, given the colour, look good. We very much appreciate Heather's enterprise and efforts to secure them from Kippen Hall, and to arrange the transportation.
There have been no recent issues with key access or hall heating.
Active Schools activities are running successfully and will continue this term.
- i) Risk Assessments & PVG - Heather is now PVG registered, which ensures we are covered for any events that she organises which involve young people.
- j) Procurement - Colin reported that Logic Alarms had been thorough in their first inspection visit on 18 March, and there have been no 'false alarms' since. It was not necessary to change the batteries. MacGregor's have booked their check of the fire extinguishers for 27 April. We will keep any that are replaced for BBQ use.

IV. Official re-opening of Aultbea Hall by HRH the Princess Royal, 12 May 2026.

The information about HRH's visit is now on the Royal website. Arrangements are being progressed as required and about 70 guests have accepted their invitations. The details of timings, placement for the various groups, performances and Hall layout arrangements are quite complex but it is hoped to be able to inform those invited of the arrangements and protocols by early next week. Andy has been able to amend the wording on the plaque to our request that they recognise 'Aultbea Hall Revival'. We will be offering refreshments after HRH has departed.

V. Any Other Business

Pauline is in contact with the Highland Archive Service (Am Baile) to try to obtain a quality copy of the 1978 photo of Aultbea Hall which was posted on their site.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 19 May 2026. As Andy will not be there, Rebecca offered to arrange the Zoom link.

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