Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 14 July 2026

19.00 hrs.

I. Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

III. **Existing Business**

a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures updated to end June 2026. Expenditure last month included paying our insurance. The SIM card for ongoing wifi access is accounted for in Hall expenditure. The quarterly electricity bill was duly paid earlier this month and cleaning materials have been purchased via MacGregors. We have a cash account with them now (with free delivery); their credit account is not suitable for us. Bruce will see if he can secure a second debit card for Jean.

Insurance: Pauline explained the issues that had arisen as she tried to ensure the Hall has insurance that is relevant to our repaired and renovated premises and usage. Throughout the communications, Allied Westminster proved to be more efficient in responding than Zurich so, given very similar quotes, we now have a '3 year' policy with them (premiums are reviewed annually). Having provided the Electrical certificates required, the only further proviso is to have portable guards for the two portable heaters.
At its meeting on 15 June, the Community Council decided not to continue to insure the Flotilla event so this cover is included in our new policy. ACC have given a one-off donation to demonstrate their support for our fund-raiser.
Not surprisingly, the insurers are confused that the Hall has several different postcodes and recommend that we rectify this. Andy advises that this may be possible via a registration process with Highland Council. Pauline will check this out.

b) Minor works - Chris Ross will put the HRH plaque on the entrance hallway wall above the notices.
The fence does not need painting, but the main doorway woodwork remains on the list for repair.

c) Ongoing Works -
Stage project: Pauline made contact with the Nairn Little Theatre Company, which responded promptly and seemingly willing to advise. However, after further details were provided, the offer from one of their volunteers to come over to view has not progressed. Pauline has also met with Sandy Crawford, who was such as asset at the Talent Show. He is working on two costed lighting and sound proposals, one for a reasonable minimum provision and one for a more enhanced, though still realistic, set-up. We would then arrange a meeting between Sandy and our electrician to plan installation details.
Colin and his crew have painted the roof of the two-storey block. The final painting work will be undertaken when Roddie does the repairs to the vertical sheeting.
Andy is hampered at present by significant IT-connection problems but hopes to arrange for ERG to provide a quotation for the kitchen window in the near future. Roddie has also been asked to quote.

d) License for the 23 October Dance - Although she is (likely) not available to help on the evening, Heather will apply for the necessary license. Vanessa is willing to help that evening.

e) IT and media - Rebecca has undertaken some restructuring and rationalisation of the website and has added a 'news and updates' section. She aims to make it possible to book the facilities online and to include a calendar tab. She has the information now to be able

to promote the use of the Hall for family occasions. Publicity for the Flotilla Event is underway.

f) Fundraising - Heather will approach the previous sponsors of the T-shirt to see if they wish to donate again for a new version, different colour, before seeking quotations for printing. Other possible sponsors were suggested.

g) Hall events / bookings
Talent Show, 20 June: This proved to be a very successful and enjoyable occasion, with about 90 people in the audience. There was encouragement for it to be repeated next year. The Destitution Road Band (Dundonnell) may be willing to do a full concert in the future. Heather was thanked for her very considerable efforts in planning and organising this ambitious fundraising event.
Aultbea Flotilla, 1 August: Arrangements are now well in hand: teas in the Hall from 1-3, with some of the games set up in the Crow's Nest for youngsters; Flotilla itself at 3pm; BBQ, Chip X (with ice creams) and tombola at the Hotel thereafter, with Colin Irvine providing the music. Raffle tickets will be offered at both venues. The Safety Boats and First Aiders are booked. Various catering matters were considered. Jean will check that all related Risk Assessments are updated. Fee will send an invitation to the residents of Isle View.
Recovery (Tattie-pickers) Dance 23 October: arrangements will be as previous dances.
West Fest, Saturday 24 October: This is intended to be a cultural and community-focussed event. Details are being worked on. If the School Parent Council do not wish to be responsible for the refreshments, then the opportunity will be offered to Sing Loch Ewe. Fee hopes that there will be a football competition during the day.
A Christmas Market is planned for 5 December, Amelia is working towards another Family Ceilidh pre-Christmas, and Recovery are booked for Hogmanay once again.

h) Community engagement / use of Hall - Highland Council have booked the Hall for a 'major exercise' on 17 September. Kerry Ann will ascertain what they require.
The Wester Ross Drama Group has booked the Crow's Nest for a session in September.
Fee has repainted the chalk boards and reminded us that notices should be made in chalk, not chalk pens, in order to preserve the surface.

i) Risk Assessments & PVG - No recent activity to report. We have a good suite now of templates for the various activities.
Jean confirmed that PVG applies to under-18s.

IV. Any Other Business
i) Pauline and Heather are working towards installing curtains/blinds in the Crow's Nest before winter, which Pauline will pay for as a donation. It was agreed that green would be in keeping with the existing colour scheme.
ii) Mel will send Rebecca photos of the children's Great Wave mural (on show upstairs during the Talent evening) for the Facebook page.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 18 August 2026. Fee will chair in Andy's absence, and Rebecca will arrange the Zoom link.

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