Aultbea Hall Management Committee

Tuesday 18 August 2026

19.00 hrs.

I. Fee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

III. **Existing Business**

a) Financial Position - Bruce had circulated the financial figures updated to end July 2026. Expenditure last month included paying the second quarter electricity bill, and buying some consumables for the Hall. The August income tally will include the excellent total of £2400 from the Flotilla event, together with some box donations and (the final?) T-shirt sales. Flotilla event costs have mostly been paid, so the profit is similar (£1800+) to last year's, given the additional insurance cost.

b) Minor works - Nothing to report.

c) Ongoing Works -
Stage project: Pauline's efforts to progress this have, as yet, not come to any tangible outcomes, other than beginning to clarify how the inherited curtains might be renovated. Colin will prompt Roddy to undertake the repairs to the vertical sheeting to the timescale indicated. The east end roundel will be repainted at the same time.
Roddy's quote for replacing the kitchen windows seems to be in line with what we estimated would be the cost. We will accept this by the 30 August deadline unless we receive a more favourable quotation from ERG in the meantime. Pauline will check with Andy if any arrangement has been made for this.
Pauline and Heather have met to agree the fabric and design for installation of curtains at one end and a blind at the other for the Crow's Nest. Heather will discuss this with Fiona James to secure a quote. All costs will be covered by a confirmed donation.

d) Licence for the 23 October Dance - Heather will apply for the necessary licence.

e) IT and media - Rebecca continues to restructure and rationalise the website. Pauline has provided a report on the Flotilla day for the 'news and updates' section and Rebecca would welcome further content relating to recent events. An *Aultbea Hall Revival!* update report was published in the 14 August edition of GDT.

f) Fundraising - Having sold all remaining stock, Heather has sufficient sponsors now to fund production of a 'mark 2' T-shirt. She is working on the design and colour. She was thanked, in her absence, for all the negotiation that she undertakes on the Hall's behalf.

g) Hall events / bookings
Aultbea Flotilla, 1 August: The weather was on our side and all went well. Although rather slow initially, teas and raffle in the Hall raised considerable monies, with the play equipment being well used. The face-painting was popular. The Hotel end was very busy with many activities after the flotilla parade. These all made substantial contributions to the final income.
For next year, we would aim to:
- try to set up a way for those interested to participate in the raft procession to link with others so they could become a crew
- publicise more explicitly what is available at the different times and locations
- have a separate stall for the 'veggie' aspects of the BBQ.
It was noted that the BBQ equipment is likely to need replacing after its next use.

Recovery (Tattie-pickers) Dance 23 October: arrangements will be as previous dances. Rebecca will step up the promotion for this from now on.

Saturday 24 October: Meetings are taking place to engage various cultural and community groups, with heritage, natural history and 'Dark Skies' activities looking likely and a football competition also intended for what will be a 'family friendly' programme, sponsored by West Fest. The School Parent Council will take on the café provision for the day as part of their fund-raising for the Loch Eil project. There may also be a hot food offer for the late afternoon.

Amelia has booked Chailein MacLeod, a highly talented accordionist from Ullapool, for the Family Ceilidh on Saturday 19 December.

h) Community engagement / use of Hall -
There are no significant 'new' bookings of late. Kerry Ann continues to liaise with Highland Council officers to prepare for their 'major exercise' on 17 September, and the school will return as term begins.
It was noted that the lock on the entrance door needs regular lubrication to ensure the key turns smoothly. Ultimately, the answer is a new front door ….

i) Risk Assessments & PVG - All have been undertaken as required, usually now only needing updating of existing templates.

IV. Any Other Business

i) After discussion of the current 5(!) different postcodes that are recorded on the various invoices and licence details, it was agreed that we would, in future, use IV22 2JH to meet the consistency expectations of our insurers for Hall purposes. This covers our registered 'old football field' land also. (Note that the OSCR/SCIO charity postcode is IV22 2ND - Laide Post Office - which is our registered address for official admin.)
ii) We agreed that Jean and Pauline should place orders to purchase quality tea-towels, a second small manual water urn and some non-slip trays for the kitchens.
iii) Sooner rather than later, we would very much like to replace the temporary floor covering in the Crow's Nest with proper carpet. It might be worth securing a quotation, just in case there are funds available by the end of the year.

The **next Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, 29 September 2026.

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