

NOTES FROM SCIO ZOOM MEETING 5.11.20

Present: Andy Henderson, Elaine Polanski, Ruth Tott, Sharon MacInnes, Karen Baird

Apologies: Carol Watt

Resignations: Gill Telfer has resigned as Secretary due to personal reasons and Phil Whale has resigned as Bar Manager, also giving up the cleaning duties he and Val shared at the Hall. Karen has emailed each of them to thank them for the work they have done with the SCIO. Elaine suggested that thank you gifts should be bought and Ruth has volunteered to do this.

It was decided to advertise in the village for a new Secretary, prior to the AGM, along with asking people to become involved in the SCIO. Karen will write something for the Everything Furnace page.

There was some discussion on the way forward with the bar/social club. It had not been covering its running costs and at present it is impossible to open it due to Covid restrictions. David and Cindy have expressed an interest in leasing the bar to extend their operations. It was felt that much more discussion as to the way forward needs to take place and it was agreed to shelve this matter temporarily.

Accounts: Our accounts are currently with the Auditor. Elaine will chase them up. They are needed both for our AGM and to be submitted to OSCR before the end of the year.

Wind Farm grant application: This has now been submitted and we should have a decision on 18 November. We have asked for the money to carry out the external works needed to the Hall. Thanks were expressed to Lynda Syed for filling out the application form on our behalf.

Shop/bungalow: Most of the work has now been completed, with the electrical work due to be finished shortly. David and Cindy have asked for the wall to be lined, but are paying for this themselves. We are responsible for the work required by Building Control. The final price may vary from the estimate as the work was carried out by Sinclairs, not by the firm who originally quoted.

Website update: Ruth is hoping to make this live on 13 November. Everyone agreed it was a great improvement on what we had, but we will need to make an effort to keep it up to date and to add to it.

Ruth has asked Duncan Beaton to simplify the village history section a bit as it was rather long and involved, although very interesting. There have been some initial discussions with Duncan about providing history walks around the village, either for locals or for tourist groups. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Other business: Christmas – the tree will be up and the lights on the tree and the Hall will be switched on at 6pm on 4 December. Thanks to Sharon for organising this. We decided the village needed a positive event of some sort for Christmas. It was agreed that we would ask people to decorate a window and that we would organise a village walk, by lantern/torchlight, to view them all. Lyndsay Joynson may still have lanterns from last year's event. Ruth will contact her. It was also suggested that we ask Wilf and Barbara Stout to lead us in one carol by the tree to mark the start of the event. Karen will contact them.

Hamper/raffle – Margaret is very keen to still do her hamper. She, Gill and Elaine will organise this plus a raffle. The school will be involved with collecting in prizes and tickets will be sold in the shop. The raffle will be drawn in the week leading up to Christmas. Money raised will be split between the school, the church and Shelter.

Balfour Beattie community scheme: our plan to upgrade the area behind the Hall has fallen foul of where the boundaries lie, making our original scheme impossible. Sharon suggested that, rather than miss out on BB's help altogether, we propose a different project. One of the bridges on the Leacainn Walk needs underpinning and a section on the path needs attention. Sharon will speak to John Rennie about the bridge in particular and see if this is something they might help with instead.

Date for AGM: We want to have this before the end of the year and must have it before the end of January to stay within the rules. The date will be set once Elaine receives the accounts back from the auditor.

All planned events will be subject to social distancing and any other Scottish Government guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Karen Baird
6.11.20