

MINUTES OF FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO AGM AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

**THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2020 at 7.30 pm via ZOOM**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Karen Baird (Chair), Ruth Tott (Vice Chair), Elaine Polanski (Treasurer), Anne Beaton, John Campbell, Sue Campbell, Ann Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Andy Henderson, Sharon MacInnes, Gill Telfer, Val Whale

**APOLOGIES**

Anne & Mike Masino, Allison Elliot

**MINUTES OF LAST AGM**

These were approved as an accurate Minute. Proposed: Andy Henderson, Seconded: Elaine Polanski

**TREASURER'S REPORT** (attached)

Elaine explained the layout of the Report and that the accounts cover up until the end of the financial year in March 2020, pre-COVID interruptions. The accounts were audited by Sarah Nevis of Nevis Accountancy Services.

Unrestricted Funds can be spent freely by the Committee. Restricted Funds are ring-fenced for a specific purpose eg donations from Sloy for Christmas lights. The Restricted Funds also show the amount of money taken in over the year through rent for the village shop and bungalow. This money is held to cover any work which needs to be done on the shop or bungalow.

Income for the year was just over £20,000.

*John Campbell* asked about spending on the shop and bungalow. *Andy Henderson* explained that a lot of repairs and maintenance were needed on both the shop and the bungalow.

The shop has had work done on drainage and the soffit boards have had work done and have been repainted. We have also just received the bill for bringing the shop extension up to the level which Building Standards requires.

The bungalow's windows need attention and the boiler was recently replaced.

John's concern was that the income did not cover the repairs needed. Elaine explained that some items fell under different financial years but the income was sufficient to cover what was needed.

*Ruth Tott* asked if we had ever received the £500 promised by Breedon towards our Christmas lights. Elaine said she did not think we had. As the person who promised the funds is no longer with Breedon it was decided there was no point in pursuing this matter at the present although we may approach them for funds again in the future.

Costs of accounting: £300 for Amenity Association to close accounts and £240 for the SCIO's end of year accounts.

We overspent on last year's Old Folks' party. There seems to have been a lot of 'free' alcohol which went over the bar, due to people slightly taking advantage of the situation. It was stressed that this was not due to any failure on Phil Whale's (the barman) fault.

The remaining Youth Club money had been transferred into the Party fund as previously agreed.

### Grants

Sloy: towards the Christmas lights.

Annual grant from Gilkes: we have been receiving this every year. The payment pre-dates Elaine's time as Treasurer, but we believe the money is from the hydro scheme near Auchindrain. Although the money says it is restricted we have no record of a specific purposed being recorded.

NHS Highland: this was money received by the Bowls Club to enable them to buy new bowls. The bowls were purchased at a cost of £530 and the balance was used to buy raffle prizes.

An Suidhe Windfarm: money went towards the community buyout of the shop. We also received money from the fish farm towards the shop buyout, but this comes under the previous financial year's accounts.

### Donations

Amenity Association: this was the balance in the account when the AA closed and became the SCIO. The funds were therefore transferred to the SCIO.

Social Club: the Social Club gave a donation of £10,000 towards the shop buyout but, again, this is shown in the previous year's accounts.

The Social Club itself is non-profit making (as is the SCIO). Any profit goes into the SCIO, but the bar had definitely been making less money recently and there needs to be discussion at a future SCIO meeting as to the way forward with this once COVID restrictions end. The bar has its own set of accounts and bank account but is not required to submit these to OSCR.

Prices in the bar had been adjusted to try to improve matters, but holidays of regulars seem to have a huge impact. Wages also had to come out of any money made and obviously have to be paid whether anyone comes in to the bar or not. There was a short discussion as to when it might be worth having the bar open, such as special events and bowls nights with visiting teams, as opposed to having 3 set nights.

David and Cindy have expressed interest in running the bar but it was felt that fuller discussion of this matter, including the legalities because of our charitable status, needed to happen. It was decided that a separate meeting would be held and David and Cindy will be invited to come along with their proposals.

It is believed the money from the Unrestricted Funds used on the shop/bungalow was to do with replacing the shower and toilet and came from the Unrestricted Funds as the bill pre-dated sufficient Restricted Funds.

The money for the Bowls Club is held until they open their own account. The Craft Club now has its own account.

Elaine updated the SCIO by stating that the bank account up to November 2020 shows that we have a total of £27,400, which includes a legacy of nearly £8,000 and grant monies already paid to us.

Our accounts are submitted to OSCR every year.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT** (attached)

Karen explained that unlike Elaine's report which covers the financial year, her report ran from one AGM to the next.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

As stated in our Constitution, all the present Office Bearers stood down from their positions but were immediately eligible for re-election. Gill Telfer (retiring Secretary) had stated that she did not wish to continue in this post.

**Chair:** Karen Baird, proposed by Elaine Polanski, seconded by Sharon MacInnes

**Vice Chair:** Ruth Tott, proposed by Elaine Polanski, seconded by Sharon MacInnes

**Treasurer:** Elaine Polanski, proposed by Karen Baird, seconded by Ruth Tott

**Secretary:** Sue Campbell, proposed by Ruth Tott, seconded by Sharon MacInnes

#### **AOCB**

An Suidhe Windfarm grants: 2 grants have been received since the last AGM. £9,000 for green gym equipment and £12,000 for repairs and maintenance work, including painting internally and externally, at the village hall. The green gym is currently on hold due to COVID restrictions. We were given more money for the hall than we had asked for as the donors felt it would be better to allow us to have the money for the internal decoration while the hall was out of use due to restrictions.

Work on shop: Carol and Douglas Watt co-ordinated this and it is now completed. Elaine has the invoice for £328 as per the quotation. As Carol and Douglas had not claimed any expenses for co-ordinating this work it was decided that a gift would be bought to thank them. The work has been passed by Building Standards and they will send us the certificate as soon as they receive a photo of the fire exit sign.

Ewan Stewart (of Bowman Stewart) drew up the plans for the shop extension and dealt with Building Standards on our behalf. Part of his fee was paid by Mike Masters as previous owner of the shop, but Ewan has been in touch to say that he will waive the portion of his

fee that the SCIO was due to pay. It was decided that a bottle of whisky would be purchased for him in thanks.

Bowls Club: *Ronnie Dodds* asked if the bowling tables which are stored in the shed could be moved into the hall for the time being as there is a danger of them warping because of how they are stored and the dampness of the shed. This was agreed.

Ronnie also brought up the matter of the safety of the hall floor. *Karen* stated that the SCIO was aware of the situation and that members of the Committee would be asked to stay on after the AGM to discuss the matter.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was decided to leave the decision on a date until January.

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## COMMITTEE MEETING 10.12.20

Sharon has arranged for the water in the Hall to be switched off during the winter by A & D Watts.

### Gifts

For Carol & Douglas for work on shop extension: bottles of vodka/Jura whisky – Richard to arrange

For Ewan Stewart as thank you: bottle of whisky – Richard to arrange

For Lynda Syed for windfarm application: bottle red wine – Ruth to arrange

Gill expressed her thanks for the flowers given on her retiral as Secretary.

### Structural Engineer

It was decided to just go ahead with the quote we had (Bowman Stewart?) so we know what the position is regarding the Hall. If we have to replace the entire floor we are looking at costs in the region of £30,000.

### Reopening the Hall

It was felt we should wait until at least March 2021 but we would reassess the situation at the next meeting in light of the circumstances at the time.

The Council had approached Sharon about hiring the Hall for the elections in May 2021. They would be prepared to pay £100. It was felt that this would not be enough to cover deep cleaning the Hall after their use.

It was agreed to reply to them that, while we agreed on the let in principle, we had not yet decided when our Hall would reopen and we would be back in touch with them in the New Year.

### Matters for our next meeting

- Hall reopening
- Social club/bar future
- Other opportunities for running of bar
- Arrange meeting with David & Cindy re bar

### Area behind Hall

Sharon is looking for paperwork showing an agreement between the SCIO and McLeod Homes re access to this area. (After some discussion it was realised that this would probably be between the Amenity Association and McLeods.) The Planning Office say the land at the back belongs to Goatfield

View but Fyne Homes says it doesn't. There is nothing we can do with this area until the matter is resolved. Elaine and Sharon are going to go through the old paperwork which Elaine has to see if they can find anything.

#### Update of SCIO members' list

Our present list doesn't have everyone's email addresses. As it is likely that meetings will continue online for the foreseeable future we need to get hold of some more. There was discussion of Data Protection worries and it was decided that in the New Year we would ask people to confirm/update their details and we would devise a form for people to sign allowing us to hold their information for the purposes of the SCIO sending out information about/minutes of meetings.

#### Amenity Association

This needs properly wound up as OSCR are still asking for accounts. Sarah Nevis has audited the accounts but the bank account is technically still open. We need to know who the signatories were in order to close it down.

The form which Mike was sent by OSCR was never completed and returned to them. We think the signatories may have been Mike, possibly Sharon and Richard, and maybe Andy as she was Secretary for some time.

Elaine will see what she can find out so we can get this finished off.

We will set a date for the next meeting in the first half of January once the Christmas/New Year festivities are over.