

SCIO COMMITTEE MEETING

12 MAY 2022 at 7.30PM

VILLAGE HALL, FURNACE

MINUTES

1. IN ATTENDANCE

Karen Baird (Chair), Ruth Tott (Deputy Chair), Sue Campbell (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Carol Watt, Gill Telfer, Lynsey McKinnon (Bar), Mark Boston, Andy Henderson, Margaret McIntyre, Robbie Bell, Lynda Syed.

2. APOLOGIES

From Elaine Polanski.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (10 MARCH 2022)

The minutes were agreed as a correct reflection of the meeting and were proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Mark Boston.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Mark Boston queried the suggested voucher scheme (previous minutes) which aims to encourage people to visit the bar. Lynda Syed suggested that the licence should be reviewed to confirm that new guests to the Village Hall bar needed to be 'signed in' by a member of the committee. *Note: Any member can sign a guest into the bar. (Action: Lynsey to check the licence.)*

5. THE HALL

a) The bar

The low number of people using the bar is still an issue and it was agreed to wait until all Committee members were together as all decisions are jointly made by all Trustees. It was agreed that it is still early in the season as more people are likely to visit the bar during the summer. Sharon said that some events were coming up which would require the services of the bar.

b) The Noticeboard

The notice board is up.

c) Fire Safety

The Hall's safety is all up to date. Lynsey will investigate getting cameras back in the bar.

d) Energy Assessment Report

It was agreed not to pursue any of the alternative energy efficiency measures as recommended by Zero Waste Scotland's (ZWS) Energy Assessment Report just now due to uncertainty in the ROI and the initial costs that would be incurred before any payback was realised. (Action: Sue to get back to ZWS.)

6. FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Previous events: it was reported that the Easter Egg-stravaganza Sunday 17 April, was a great success and raised over £1200. The Swish Night, run by members of the Church, had been a great event and would likely run again. The use of the Village Hall for the local council election had gone well.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Auction Night, Friday 3 June

Andy reported that the Auction Sub Committee will be meeting this Saturday to finalise the format of the auction and to discuss how to publicise the event to the wider Furnace, Inveraray, Lochgilphead community. The auction will open at 6.30pm and begin at 7.30pm.

It was agreed that good photography of the auction items would help with publicity and might be of interest to the Argyll Advertiser. Such a photograph might be the Grass Cutting man in his fancy dress or Lynsey cutting someone's hair. Sharon will speak to Robert Wilson. These photographs can also go on Everything Furnace website and regularly, in the run up to the auction. Photographs for the Advertiser should go to Lynda Syed by 17 May in time for publication before the event.

In addition, Ruth will produce a poster for circulating around the wider area and will also send a photograph of Duncan Beaton on one of his history walks to Lynda.

A lectern is required for the auctioneer and Karen will ask the minister of West Lochfyneside Parish if we can borrow the lectern at Cumloddan. Karen is to speak to Dorothy Wallace.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party, 4 June

Arrangements for the party including music and suggestions of dressing up 'Royally' were discussed. A Sub Committee for this event will meet up on Saturday to discuss the organisation for the party.

Ruth will produce a poster again, to encourage people to attend, to bring a plate of food and to dress up. Sharon is going to try to organise a Piper to open the party and will speak to Rod Buchanan.

Lynsey will look at playing a Queen's Platinum Jubilee playlist over the Hall's speakers to provide background music for the party. Gill will ask her Mum for any of her favourite songs from the 1950's.

Other funding raising events: Lynda Syed said that Hall fees for Keep Well Furnace have been paid. Ruth enquired if the Argyll Lottery is still running, and it is.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Community Shop and Bungalow Lease

A new legal contract for the community shop and bungalow is to be drawn up for Cindy and David.

There are two leases – one is for the shop and a solicitor will be engaged to put a new contract together and the other lease is for the bungalow. The bungalow lease follows a Scottish Government pro forma document.

Furnace SCIO is the community shop and bungalow's landlord and is responsible for repairs. The windows in the bungalow need to be reviewed and SCIO will ask for quotes from window companies. A meeting is to be set up between Cindy and David and SCIO members.

b) Roddy's Tree

Hamish is organising a stone for the plaque to go on following the loss of the previous stand. We have the plaque.

c) Leacainn Walk

A new leaflet on the walk is to be produced. Karen has two old copies of previous Leacainn Walk leaflets. Robbie said that there are possibly other copies of one of the leaflets in a filing cabinet in the shed. Karen will check. Ruth said that Stewart had the artwork if we wanted to print more copies of the latest leaflet. Lynda Syed said that the walk is closed just now as Scottish Woodland are putting in new fencing and gates.

It was agreed that Richard Joynson could go ahead and apply matting to where the walk is boggy. This follows his email requesting funds from SCIO. Karen will ask Richard to supply the materials (two rolls of matting -20m) as used at North Craleckan.

There followed a discussion on who owns the land surrounding Leacainn Walk and it was thought that there are several landlords along the route. Karen will speak to a member of Auchindrain about setting up an honesty box to support funding for the walk. Further discussions considered that the walk needed to be properly funded and that advice could be sourced from Paths for All and the Argyll Woodland Trust. It was suggested that the walk needed its own business plan which would be useful when applying for grants. It was agreed to look at any past information on the Leacainn Walk to find out about further references to landowners involved. Sue will look at past minutes. Carol will speak to Duncan Crawford and Chris McCann. Karen will speak to Scottish Land Registry for help so that we can contact landowners.

d) The Co-op Local Community Fund

Lynda Syed updated the group on the Co-op's Local Community Fund. Karen will fill in an application form on behalf of Furnace SCIO.

It was suggested that preparing a business plan for SCIO would be useful for approaching other funders to support SCIO's aims. Karen will consider a business plan and aided by Lynsey. Amazon Smile is still accessible and will be publicised to encourage take up.

e) An Suidhe Fund

Sue mentioned that the An Suidhe Fund was looking for help to publicise grants which are now available to alleviate energy poverty in communities. More details will be forthcoming.

8. MONEY

Elaine provided updated financial statements and it was agreed to discuss these at the next meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This is planned for July. An exact date will be announced later.