

**SCIO COMMITTEE MEETING
28 JULY 2022 at 7.30PM
VILLAGE HALL, FURNACE**

MINUTES

1. IN ATTENDANCE

Robbie Bell, Lynda Syed, John Gillies, Mary Gillies, Duncan Beaton, Elizabeth Dickson, John Campbell, Edith Mackellar, Brian Gallaher, Sue Campbell (Secretary), Karen Baird (Chair), Elaine Polanski (Treasurer), Anne Beaton, Lynsey McKinnon (Bar), Alexa, Gill Telfer, Kenneth MacKellar, Louise MacKellar, Andy Henderson, Ruth Tott (Deputy Chair), Mark Boston, Margaret MacIntyre, Craig Dickson, Sharon MacInnes and Carol Watt.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (12 May 2022)

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

Karen Baird asked for a total of the sum raised at the Auction on 3 June. Elaine gave a total figure of £4,200. Andy Henderson said that the auction was well received and supported by the people of Furnace and thanks was given to all those who helped with the auction.

5. MEMBERSHIP

a. Landlord Responsibilities

It was asked if SCIO is up to date on all responsibilities? Ruth explained that all registrations on the Community Shop and Bungalow and the Village Hall and Bar are up to date and taken care of. Such responsibilities to date included for the Community Shop and Bungalow: repairs to the inside doors of the Bungalow and replacing six windows with double glazing. To date, a new boiler, toilet, and windows had been updated. Elaine explained that since the shop had been set up as a community asset, £53,000 had been logged as income of which £22,000 had been spent on landlord responsibilities. John Campbell asked if there were more repairs outstanding? It was thought that there weren't any. He also asked if a current valuation existed for the bungalow, as over the past five years property prices had increased, and because this would be important for the SCIO charity to know and as it needs to be able to submit the price to OSCR – the charity regulator. As there is no current valuation it was agreed that SCIO board would arrange for an estate agent to make an assessment. (SCIO to ask)

b. Recruitment

Karen outlined that SCIO needs to recruit new members to the Furnace Community SCIO board to replace the current Treasurer and Secretary. She also stressed that recruiting more new committee members would be very useful to help with event organising and to establish sub committees to help with workloads. Karen then mentioned that the date of the next Annual General Meeting would be set once the annual accounts had been audited. This date would be publicised to the community via Facebook, website, noticeboard, etc.

6. MONEY

Elaine issued hard copies of the Current Year bank balances. The first balance was of £2,211.95 for the Social Club. £500 is to be paid into this account and when this is done an amount of £1,500 would be transferred into the SCIO account. (Elaine to do this.)

Mark Boston asked how good the bar's takings were, as this issue had been discussed at the last SCIO meeting. Lindsay said that bar takings were going up. Elaine said that a recent report of takings from April to June had been around £700-800 and that since 2019 the Social Club had taken in over £34,000.

Elaine asked those present that if they wanted any account details for disclosing at the next AGM could they let her know in advance of the AGM as to what they wanted.

Mark asked if there were any trends in the bar takings, especially during events being held in the hall?

John Campbell asked if the bar was at least 'breaking even' and that prices were covering costs? Elaine said that bar takings could be viewed as a 'standalone' from events. She said that the bar could not make a profit, with money being transferred into the SCIO account. John asked if there could be a monthly printout of bar takings?

Mark asked if 'footfall' into the bar was still a matter of concern? Karen asked Lindsay if publicising the bar via FaceBook had helped bring people into the bar. She agreed that it had and thanked Ruth for her help on this.

There was a discussion on how Covid was keeping people from attending indoor gatherings but how hall events were well attended.

Elaine continued that the SCIO balance is currently £15,651.56 of which £12,664.17 is the Community Shop and Bungalow balance. And that payment towards the repair of the Leacainn Walk bridges would come out of this amount in the balance. Andy Henderson mentioned how rent is raised from the Community Bungalow and this is ringfenced. This amounts to about £10,000, the additional amount of £5,000 is raised with monies also from grants such as An Suidhe and the Leacainn Hydro fund.

Sharon asked if it was possible for SCIO to buy the bar a new computer to support a secure swipe card payment system? Karen reiterated that any finance questions for the AGM should be sent to Elaine in advance of the meeting.

7. The Hall

a. **Bar** – Ruth outlined that several tasks connected with the bar are being looked at, such as the repairing the men's loos, researching a new drinks wholesaler as a back up to our supplies, putting up the "Powderkeg" Sign in the bar and maintaining clear access to fire escapes.

b. **CCTV** – Mark Boston reported back on progress exploring options into installing CCTV following several instances of vandalism in the centre of the village. Research so far included use of CCTV in public areas, data protection issues, and surveillance packages for external and internal use. Mark will be happy to share any information with anyone who asks for details. It was asked if the CCTV reach to the War Memorial and the Bus Shelter where damage had been inflicted. There was a further discussion by those present that this seemed to be a lot of effort and expense. Ruth stated that SCIO was asked to look at the issue of vandalism at the War memorial and bus stop and that the current discussions were for prevention purposes. Karen stated that once details were known a judgement would be made.

8. The Community Shop and Bungalow

a. **Lease for the Community Shop** – the lease for the shop is up in 2024. The current tenants have asked for reassurance on the lease continuing. Elaine has emailed the tenants with the details of a further five-year period, stating how SCIO want them to stay and asking for a discussion to happen in 2023 on an increase in the rent.

b. **Windows** – these have been replaced in the Bungalow.

9. Fundraising Events

Regarding previous events held in 2022 there was a vote of thanks to Andy Henderson and Mark Boston for their work on the Auction on Friday 3 June and for Lynda Syed's help in publicising the event. There was a vote of thanks to those people who helped organise the Queen's Jubilee

Tea Party on 4 June. Elaine said that the Bar raised £721 at the Auction night, and £343 at the Tea Party, with £38 taken at the bar on the Sunday.

Suggestions for future events were discussed. Ruth suggested that the village host a Christmas Dinner for all ages of people in Furnace. This was considered a great idea and Elaine called for volunteers to help organise this and help to cook this. Karen suggested that this idea should feature on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting and that if people wanted to help, they could give their email address to a SCIO member. A discussion on email usage ensued and this could be a topic for the next SCIO meeting.

Karen asked if the village would want a Village Gala next summer? Duncan suggested that this year's Tea Party was like a Village Gala in that it brought everyone together.

Elaine asked if there were any ideas for events before Christmas? For example, Race Nights, Cocktail Night, Theme Nights, and Halloween Party. Karen asked Sharon to please ask the organisers of the Race Night to consider when they could next run their Race Nights? Future events would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Sharon said that Craft Markets are going to be held at Furnace Village Hall every first day of the month, starting on 4 September (11am – 3pm). It is possible that around 14 stalls would take part in the fair.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Leacainn Walk

The work on the three bridges is now complete. It was agreed to pay the contractor 75% of his fee now as one bridge is still in need of additional repairs following heavy rain recently. Also, SCIO is to enquire if he is available to undertake other repairs appearing on the walk? (Karen is to ask Richard.) Elaine stated that the contractors had been paid for their materials in advance.

Ruth stated that the leaflet reprint is proceeding as there are no copies of the original leaflet left. However, Robbie is to ask David and Cindy if they have any copies. A pdf of the leaflet would also be available to go online. Mark asked if there should be some cross-referencing with the Community Shop on the leaflet for those looking for refreshments and with the bar, however, it was stated that only members can use the bar. Mary Gillies said that there was a particular handrail that needed attention on the walk just before the village.

It was discussed that grant money may be available from the An Suidhe fund. John Campbell suggested producing a report for An Suidhe that asked for funding for several community initiatives such as, the Leacainn Walk or CCTV. The next An Suidhe meeting is in three months' time. Lynda Syed said that another round of funding was coming up and she would email details to Karen.

b. Roddy's Tree

The plaque will go on to the stone shortly.

c. Pop-Up Catering

Before this item was discussed Ruth explained that David and Cindy's Fish and Chips Friday events were no longer going to be held in the village hall and she detailed what had recently happened at the night of the event and at what possible alternatives could be considered as David and Cindy did not want to host any further Friday Fish nights. There was a discussion by all present as to what they thought had happened, the allegations which were made and what they thought should have been done in response. It was stressed that SCIO was not stopping the meals from happening.

Ruth read out an email exchange between her and David. David set out that he did not want to continue offering meals on Friday's due 'business reasons. Someone asked there were procedures for managing people in the bar. It was stated that in the bar the authority lay with Lindsay McKinnon, the bar manager. But that Lindsay was not aware of the issue that happened in the hall. Karen summed up the discussion confirming that the person involved in the incident had been given

a warning, but that SCIO was not able to bar this individual. It was agreed that David and Cindy would be asked by SCIO to reconsider their decision on offering meals on Fridays.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next date will be agreed once the accounts are back from the accountant. The meeting date will be circulated to all once this is known.