

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024

- 1. Attendance:-** Phil Nilsson (Chair), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon Macinnes, Adele Sinclair, Mark Boston, Jack Coggins, Christine Crawford, Ann Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Peter Hogbin, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar, Anne Masino, Mike Masino, Lynda Syed.
- 2. Apologies:-** Eva Paterson (Treasurer), Carol Watt.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting:-** Approved - proposed by Phil Nilsson and seconded by Adele Sinclair.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes:-**
 - Car parking outside the Hall** blocks access to the defibrillator, the bus shelter and the postbox. Mike suggested having a yellow checkered area by the door and marking parking spaces with white paint. Lorries parking on the pavement can also be a problem. It may not be clear to drivers that there is also car parking space at the recycling area.
 - Damage to the Wolf Stone sign** - Ronnie has checked it and unfortunately it has been damaged again and he will speak to Martin about this.
 - Land providing access to Fyne Homes** - this had been owned by the SCIO but permission for access had been given to Fyne Homes when the houses were being built.
- 5. Treasurer's report:-** Balance: £30,000- including £1,100 from the Social Club and £22,000 ring fenced (including £1,388 for planting). From the An Suidhe grant of £8,600 for the outside area, £7,850 has been paid for the work done leaving £750 to fix the rot in the fence and secure the gate at the Shop end.
- 6. Hall:-** Users of the Hall are asked to leave it as they found it but it is not being properly cleaned. It was agreed to pay £12.50 per hour for 2 hours cleaning a week.

It was also agreed to repair the rotten fence at the back of the Hall and secure the gate. Sharon will ask the Cooks to take the heras fencing away. Lynda has spoken with the Tree Shop about planters and compost and they would also deliver them for a small additional cost.

There is no outside licence and the garden will not be a 'beer garden'. However, Sharon questioned the suggestion that this outside space should be a 'no smoking area'.

TV reception in the Hall is poor and the internet keeps breaking up. Donald MacNeill's offer to put up satellite dish was approved.

- 7. Shop and Bungalow:-** Douglas Watt has arranged for all the improvements that are needed in the bungalow to start shortly so that it meets the new standards for private landlords. The terms of the new 'rent to buy' lease have been agreed and are being drawn up by the SCIO's solicitors and will be ready to be signed soon. This will help to ensure that Furnace will continue to have a village shop. Mark suggested that a pre-emption clause should be included so that the community would have the option to buy if the shop were to be sold sometime in the future.
- 8. Cycle path from Lochgilhead to Inveraray:-** Phil and Peter have met with David Bowen, who is looking for support for this idea, and although they agree that this is a great idea and would bring more visitors they don't have the time to be responsible for the stretch in the Furnace area. Peter said the path would need to be on the Brenchoillie side of the Leacainn river to avoid any conflict with the Leacainn Walk. Mark suggested that the plan needs a project leader and a small planning committee - Phil will contact David Bowen again.
- 9. Leacainn Walk:-** Lynda noted that about £2,000 is needed to re-instate the drainage.
- 10. Events:-** Martin Wilson's talk about cyber crime and how to protect yourself from scammers will be in the Hall at 10am on Friday 19 April, and will be open to everyone who is interested and is not for Furnace residents only. The 'last Friday of the month' Bingo will be on 29 March. Cindy and David will offer a Sunday Roast in the Hall on Easter Sunday, 31 March. Line-dancing - Lynda is to ask the leader of a line-dancing class in Lochgair if she is willing to take a session here.
- 11. Social Club:-** As noted in the Treasurer's Report, £2,000 has been transferred to the SCIO. The opening hours of the 'Powder Keg Bar' will now be:- Friday - 6 pm to 10 pm; Saturday - 4 pm to 7 pm and Sunday - 4 pm to 8 pm. Staff working on Fridays and Sundays will be paid but volunteers will be sought for Saturdays when too few people come to cover the staff pay. Staff would be paid for events held on Saturdays. Mark suggested that it would be interesting to look at the Bar takings on different nights. Mark felt that we should make more effort to get visitors to use the Bar and that B&Bs and holiday cottages could be given flyers and temporary membership cards .
- 12. Part time staff for the Bar and hall cleaning:-** As mentioned in the context of the Hall and the Bar, part-time cleaning and bar staff will be paid £12.50 per hour.
- 13. Vote required to amend the Constitution by adding 3 postcodes:-** There was a unanimous vote to apply to OSCR to amend our Constitution so that the 3 postcodes which had been omitted in error from our current constitution would be included. Andy is to follow this up.

14. Information for new residents:- At an earlier meeting we discussed the value of having an information pack for new residents and we will need volunteers to put one together. Mike and Mark suggested that this could be an interesting project for pupils at Lochgilphead High School or students at Argyll College. Sharon will discuss this with her neighbour, Anna, who teaches English at Lochgilphead High School.

15. AOCB:-

War Memorial:- The Christmas tree needs to be taken away and the lights disconnected and removed. Sharon has asked Martin to disconnect them. The shrubbery area is a bit of a mess and needs to be tidied up and left in a condition that is easily maintained. Sharon mentioned that the millennium time capsule is buried in this area. Ronnie said that 'The Old Farts Club' will tidy it up, leave the large stone and get gravel. They will use some of the grant that Lynda got for planting and improving the appearance of the village and get receipts for items bought. All agreed to this 'no maintenance' proposal.

Film Night:- The cost of an annual licence for a Community Film Club would be £263 plus VAT. It was felt that before committing ourselves to this cost we needed to check the sound quality of the equipment and to get more blinds. If the sound and quality of light is acceptable we could get a licence for 1 year to check if the numbers attending were sufficient to continue.

Furnace Website:- Andy is still having difficulty in putting our minutes on the Everything Furnace website and Phil is willing to see if he can sort this.

15. Date of next meeting:- 7pm Thursday 23 May 2024