

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. PRESENT

Karen Baird (Chair), Eva Paterson (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Carol Watt, Lynda Syed, Sarah Nixon, Phil Nilsson, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar, Dorothy Hodgkin, Peter Hogbin, Ruth Tott, Sue Campbell, John Campbell, Ronnie Dodd, Mark Boston, Martin Wilson, Edith MacKellar, Barbara Stout, Wilf Stout, David Campbell, Lynda McPhail, Calum McPhail.

2. Apologies

Adele Sinclair, Gill Telfer.

3. Minutes of the last meeting.

Agreed. Proposed by Mark Boston and seconded by Phil Nilsson.

4. Matter arising from the minutes

Updating the Register of Members - following the request for existing and new members to complete a membership application form we now have 88 members. Although, a closing date was given on this form for administrative purposes it was made clear that residents can apply for membership at any time.

5. Treasurer's Report

- * The Cash and Bank Balance is £21,663, with £15,780 ring fenced for any future work on the Shop and Bungalow and other known commitments. £200 has been spent on painting the tables and benches in the picnic area near to the playpark.
- * The Community Council has given the SCIO a £250 An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund micro grant to buy 2 notice boards. Ronnie suggested that one should be outside the Hall and the other outside the Shop. He will look into what will be best, including height off the ground, and Peter will give him details of a company that supplies a good range of boards.
- * There is £2,700 in the Social Club A/C, but there are bills to be paid.

6. The Hall

- * Kenneth has noticed that there are some slates missing from the Bar roof that will need attention.
- * The store will need a cupboard which can be locked and used for bar stock. When this is sorted other clubs needing access to the store can be given keys.
- * The Social Club now has 77 members and those who have still to join can get application forms at bar.
- * The 4 blinds which Sharon got to try were approved and she will get 2 more. If they are bought from the same Company they will be asked to supply an activation cord to match the length of the blind.

7. Shop and Bungalow

- * The front steps of the bungalow are broken and need to be replaced. Sharon has asked David and Cindy to source someone to repair them and let us know the details.
- * David And Cindy will be offered a 5 year extension to the lease from 1 April 2024.

8. Events

- * Bingo is on the last Friday night of each month.
- * The Fish Fridays which David and Cindy do are on all the other Friday evenings and on the Saturday evening of the last week of the month.
- * The Ceilidh Dance, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Furnace winning the Camanachd Shinty Cup, will be on Saturday 7 October. Sharon requested contributions of raffle prizes and food. The raffle money will be divided between Inveraray and Kilmory Shinty Clubs.
- * David and Cindy are arranging a Halloween Dance on 28 October
- * Ronnie asked if there was any possibility of organising the Old Folks Dinner but there are two problems - one that the School Kitchen is no longer available and also we now have more people eligible to attend than helpers. Phil will think about alternatives. He will also talk with the Rotary Club about bringing Santa Sledge to Furnace, and advertising that.
- * Any issues about the Christmas lights should be sorted by the Committee.

9. Leacainn Walk

- * Lynda confirmed that work on the steps, both near to the deer gate and near to Auchindrain, has been completed and the handrail which has been fixed at the latter location is very helpful.
- * Given the heavy rain that we have the walk is very muddy and almost impassable in places and volunteers to clear the drains would be appreciated. She is trying to raise £2,100 for work on the drains.
- * Lynda also asked if money could be ringfenced and set aside for annual maintenance and we should try to find someone to take on this work.
- * Ronnie noted the sign posts are deteriorating badly and some need to be taken down and re-lettered and others need to be replaced, including the one for the Wolf Stone. It was also noted that the Forestry would not accept responsibility for breaking some of the signs. Dorothy suggested that the mileage of both halves of the wall should be noted on the signs.
- * The leaflet about the Walk needs to be redone and Ronnie suggests charging £1 for it. A combination of text, drawings, photos and a map is needed and also someone to lead this project. Karen has the text of one of the previous leaflets on her computer and Ruth would be willing to type up text in Word as a start and perhaps someone else could use a publishing package such as Microsoft Publisher for printing - Lynda offered to help Ruth. Phil would take photos and Stuart Herd is OK with his drawings to be used again. Karen will pass on the contact details for Direct Distribution who did leaflets for Auchindrain. Peter recommended Pixout as being very good and good value.

10. Application to An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund

The next deadline for applications for funding is Monday 2 October and Lynda will submit an application to improve the area at the back of the Hall. It will have a tiled patio, the fencing carried round and a gate put in. There are 2 quotes, one using concrete and a more expensive one using Indian sandstone. If we need more money than An Suidhe will give us, some of the money that Lynda has already got for the gardening project to make the village more attractive could be used for plants.

11. Postcodes missed from those noted in the Constitution

The exercise to update the Register of Members led us to realise that the postcodes of 4 central areas had not been noted in the Constitution and will have to be added. They

are:- Redwell Terrace PA32 8XP, Goatfield View PA32 8YP, Bridge Terrace. PA32 8XR, and Quarry Park. PA32 8XW.

12. Any other business

* Martin would like to see more people attending Community Council meetings. Lynda suggested that Sarah could access Facebook to to publicise the meetings and she also wondered if a 6.30 pm start might be too early.

* Ruth pointed out that someone else will need to take over responsibility for the Furnace Website. She also noted that some sections need to be updated. Phil will look at the website and see what would be involved and Mark offered to help with updating information. It was also noted that more information about various activity and social groups could be included on the website.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 23 November 2023 at 7.30 pm.