

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

(NB. A SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Origination)

Minutes of the meeting at 7.30pm Thursday 1 June 2023

(postponed from Thursday 25 May 2023)

1. PRESENT: Karen Baird (Chair), Sharon MacInnes, Eva Paterson (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Ronnie Dodd, Adele Sinclair, Lynda Syed, Carol Watt.

2. APOLOGIES: Gill Telfer and Ann Dodd.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- * Tarmacings the parking space in front of the Hall will start on Monday 12 June and will take 5 days.
- * Breedon will donate the full cost of the tarmac.
- * The Hall will be out of use while work is carried out and there will be no access to the letter box and the bus stop. Sharon will notify Westcoast Motors and the Post Office. People using the bus will be advised to wait in a safe place and alert the driver's attention. Letters for posting should be left with the Shop Post Office.

5. TREASURERS REPORT:

- * Bank Account balance is £26,661 (including £10,238 reserved for the Shop and bungalow) after paying a 25% deposit of £833.78 to Chubb for the CCTV system.
- * Notification of an amount of £2,309.38 due to be received from the Hydro Scheme.
- * Electricity account - the old account has been closed and the debt of around £3,000 to be paid off has been transferred to the new account. The direct debit will be £400 per month.
- * The Social Club bank balance is £2,730.

6. THE HALL:

* Notice boards - The An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund allows the Community Council to allocate small grants of up to £250 for items and/or work which will benefit the community and £250 would cover the cost of 2 notice boards - one for outside the Hall and possibly one for outside the Shop where more people might look at it. Karen will send a note to Peter Hodgkin, Community Council Treasurer, to ask for this grant.

NB. When choosing and placing notice boards attention should be paid to how it opens and to the height above the ground to that it can be used and accessed by most people.

* Blinds - Mark has sent Sharon the measurements of the windows and she will now get samples for the Committee to choose a colour. Lynda pointed out the need for black out blinds.

* Heating - Ronnie has followed up on the discussion about updating the heating and changing to radiant heating, which unlike our current system, heats the air and not the person. It also has the benefit of being black heat which, again unlike our current system, allows us to watch films and screen presentations without suffering the glow of radiators. Ronnie has got a quote from BN Thermic for 4 ceiling fixed heaters, a 2 temperature thermostat (one low for when the building is unoccupied and one for a

comfortable setting for when the Hall is being used) and a 7 day programmable timer. The price is £2860 excluding VAT. This price does not include installation or any essential re-wiring. Before making a decision the SCIO Committee would have to get estimates of these costs and also an estimate of running costs. There is no date by which we have to decide whether to accept the quote for the heating but we should assume that if we take too long the price will increase.

7. SHOP AND BUNGALOW:

* Sharon has asked David and Cindy if anything is needed and the main issue is the persistent problem of the drains blocking and the smell associated. Carol pointed out that as the fall is insufficient there isn't a solution other than to accept the need to unblock them on a regular basis.

* Carol pointed out the concrete slab covering access to the drain outside the Bar emergency door had been broken and could be a safety issue. She will ask Douglas to look at it and we will need to get another cover,

8. EVENTS:

* Thanks to everyone involved and to those who came, the Coronation Celebration was very successful. Thanks also to those who baked a cake for the competition and congratulations to the winner, Frances Beaton.

* Lynda suggested that a programme of forthcoming events should be produced on a regular basis, say quarterly. However, a major issue is the volunteers needed to run them and we have an ageing population.

* More music events would be welcome but they need to be well supported - Sharon was very disappointed with the last event which she arranged, paying for a popular musician to come to Furnace and then a lot of people left early. She is reluctant to get involved in arranging similar events.

* Ronnie suggested a Ceilidh Dance which is usually great fun but as already mentioned Sharon is reluctant to hire any musicians.

* Karen and Lynda suggested a Village Picnic /Jam Session with musicians and other entertainers being invited and Karen will ask a number of people to come along - including her son Alan and his band. Saturday 1st July was agreed to be a good date to aim for as it is the first weekend of the school holidays. David MacInnes will be asked to be MC/DJ. Karen will email Committee members in about a week's time when she hopes to have an idea of the number of musicians and other entertainers who might come.

* Other possible future events - Bingo nights are popular and will continue. Quiz and Curry nights generally go well as does the Race Night which the Round Table offers - Sharon will check if they are willing to run one this autumn / winter.

9. LEACAINN WALK:

* Lynda's application to the An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund (which is administered by Foundation Scotland) was successful but there are conditions to be met by 30 September 2023. These include submitting a report on the progress of the previous grant given for work on the Leacainn Walk and for updating the current leaflet. Lynda is gathering up this information and should be able to submit a report by the deadline.

* Leaflets - new leaflets have to be produced and Lynda had been given a quote of £356 by Paul and Ruth for the preparation of the leaflet. This quote was part of the last grant application. Printing costs will depend on the size, layout and contents of the leaflet - it will include maps, photos, artwork etc. Ruth had wanted the leaflet to be available online as well as having printed copies. Carol will check the accuracy of the current

leaflet and if the information is still OK it could be copied. Karen has the existing text on her computer and it can be updated.

* Work to be completed to meet the conditions of the new grant also has to be completed by the end of September this year. Lynda is getting a sub-group together to oversee the work which needs to be done and this group will include Richard Johnson and Mike Massino and Lynda herself should be involved as she has overall responsibility for meeting the conditions of the grant. Lynda also would like Eva, as treasurer, to be involved and aware of the financial issues from the beginning.

The quote which Lynda submitted with her grant application was from Sean Cooke, Creative Gardeners and she will contact Sean to ask if he can complete the work within the stated timescale. She will also talk with David Griffiths, landscape gardener at Blarbuie to check if he can help.

* Maintenance - Lynda suggested that the SCIO should set aside money each year for the maintenance of the walk and if possible set a contract with someone willing to take it on. Sharon also suggested having a donation box to help with costs.

10. AOB:

* Furnace representation on the An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund Committee - Furnace should have 2 representatives on the Community Group which decides which applications to support but it seems that since Ruth Tott and John Campbell resigned some time ago they have not been replaced. It is very important that we are represented and attend the 2 meetings per year when the decisions are made. These meetings had been held at Brandon Lodge (a central point for the 4 communities which benefit) but since Covid meetings have been on Zoom but we don't know if that will continue. One representative should be from the Community Council and Martin Wilson has expressed interest. The second representative should be a member of the community and not involved with the applications which we make. Lynda Syed will advertise this on Everything Furnace Facebook and ask for indications of interest.

* Future grant applications - Lynda asked if there are any specific suggestions for grant applications at the moment and if not we should always be thinking of what we need and what our next applications should be for. The next date for An Suidhe applications will be early in October and one could be for a new heating system. Playpark maintenance is another important item and we should check on who is responsible for the maintenance as ACHA was involved previously.

* Lynda mentioned the need for additional parking space at Queen Elizabeth and the value of demolishing the derelict garages for useful space. Unfortunately, there is a problem of ownership and who can take decisions about this space but Lynda will keep pursuing this issue.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Meetings are now every two months and the next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 27 July 2023.