

## **FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**

### **Minute of the AGM, held in The Public Institute on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Gordon Christie, Iain Rennie, Sheila Gray, Roddy Munro, Stewart Harris, Una Hamilton, Alan Brown, Sybil Stuart, Elspeth Fordyce, Janet Hallyburton, Caroline Leslie, Alison Clavey, Bill Royan, Zara Gordon Lennox, Donald Cameron, James R.P. Mortimer, Edgar Tombe

**APOLOGIES:** Jeremy Evans, George Turnbull, Elizabeth Rennie, Angela Brown, Angus Gordon Lennox, John Mehigan, Audrey Macaulay, Frances Duncan, Margo Howe, George McIntyre

Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**APPROVED:** Iain Rennie

**SECONDED:** Stewart Harris

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Events Committee Report</b>	The AGM was held on 14 <sup>th</sup> January, at which time, Sybil Stuart was elected secretary. Edgar reported another successful year for the Gala and the Hogmanay Ceilidh. Although numbers attending the Gala were down, funds raised enabled £3600 to be distributed to groups within the community who had applied.	Edgar Tombe
<b>Institute Committee Report</b>	Gordon reported that the Hall had made £5000 profit this year thanks to the hard work of all concerned and increased usage of the facilities. During the year architects' plans had been drawn up for the intended development. These are on display and open sessions were held at which members of the public were invited to comment. Response from the user groups has been positive.	Gordon Christie

	<p>There will be public consultation on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Unfortunately, the posters, produced by Stewart, were not received by Elizabeth but it is advertised on Facebook.</p> <p>The Moray Council carried out a routine survey of the front elevation two weeks ago.</p> <p>An asbestos survey was carried out and no problems were identified.</p> <p>Advice has been taken on a bio-mass heating system and solar panels.</p> <p>The next step is the formal asset transfer.</p>	
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<p><u>Events Committee</u> Balance: £15,120.29 The working balance is £4990 as funds are committed to the Christmas lights, The Square and the tennis courts.</p> <p><u>Public Institute</u> Balance: £9392 The accounts will be audited in March, 2015.</p>	Iain Rennie
<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<p>Gordon thanked all members and volunteers for their hard work over the year.</p> <p>Stewart has worked tirelessly to produce the Business Plan.</p> <p>The refurbishment of the tennis courts was completed and they have been well used, not just during the summer.</p> <p>The company was active in the successful campaign to save Milne's High School.</p> <p>Resurfacing work was completed on the road on the north side of the Square.</p> <p>Unfortunately, requests for improvements made by the company were not carried out.</p> <p>There was recognition of the contribution made by The Heritage Group, Fochabers in Bloom and The Burn o'Fochabers Committee to the</p>	Gordon Christie

	<p>enhancement of village life. Arrangements have been put in place to clean the bus shelters every three months and Gordon thanked Paddy Douglas for volunteering to cut the grass in The Square.</p>	
<b>Election of Office Bearers</b>	<p>Roddy Munro, Sheila Gray and Iain Rennie stood down but were eligible for re-election. Sybil Stuart proposed all three should be re-elected and this was approved.</p>	
<b>Village Hall Project</b>	<p>Gordon reported that the Business Plan has been approved by the CAT team and is now with the Corporate Management Team. If it is approved by them, it will go to The Policy and Resources Committee in March. This means that the work is unlikely to start in the summer.</p> <p>Gordon stated that a request has been made to Moray Council to contribute £150,000 towards maintenance and, if this is not forthcoming, it would make the project unsustainable, creating a huge liability for the directors.</p> <p>In answer to a suggestion that people should write to the Council stating their support, Stewart said it would be helpful for people and groups to write to The Village Association stating:</p> <p>Their support for the project.  Why the hall is unique.  The reasons for keeping the Hall open.  What would happen if it closed.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that a list of reasons for keeping the Hall open could be made available at the public consultation sessions to allow people to identify their preferences.</p> <p>Gordon stated that the local</p>	

	<p>councillors supported the project and he hoped they would show their support in Committee.</p> <p>There was discussion around the need for a public meeting. Donald stated he would ask the Community Council to write in support.</p> <p>Different sources of funding were suggested and will be pursued.</p>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 2016	
<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the company which was to supply the gates for the tennis courts has gone into liquidation, Alan Macdonald has agreed to make them.</li> <li>• An application for £35,000 for solar panels has been made to the N-trust. It was suggested this should be increased to £50,000 to include insulation.</li> <li>• Sheila agreed to take on the PR for the whole project.</li> </ul>	Gordon Christie

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.