

# FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

## AGM

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. 7.30pm. Christie Room**

**PRESENT:** Gordon Christie, Iain Rennie, Alan Brown, Una Hamilton, Audrey McCauley, Dave Thow, Janet Philpott, Helen Morrison, Donald Cameron, Marc Macrae, George McIntyre, Elspeth Fordyce, Sybil Stuart, Janet Hallyburton, Chris Overing, Anna Mary Overing, Kevin Black, Bill Royan, Alison Clavey, Jane Williams, Sam Noble

**APOLOGIES:** Stewart Harris, George Turnbull, Jeremy Evans, Sheila Gray, Angela Brown, Angus Gordon Lennox, Dougie Potter, Emma Jenkins, Pat Jenkins, Lorna Welan, Caroline Leslie, Shona Morrison

### **1. WELCOME, MINUTE OF PREVIOUS AGM**

Gordon welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

The Minute of the previous AGM was approved.

### **2. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Liz was pleased to report another successful year of events and fundraising enabling grant applications to be made to local community groups.

One change to the Gala was the introduction of Gala VIPs and Junior VIPs, voted for by the pupils of Milne's Primary School. This innovation received a positive response from the public and media. Other annual events included the Christmas Lights Switch-on which took place on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the presentation of grant allocations which took place in November.

Fund raising for the hall included 'Fochabers Does Strictly-A Night at the Movies' and a Tombola night. The Gala and Events Committee also organised events around the reopening of the Hall at Easter.

Tribute was paid and thanks went to all Committee members and their families, the team of supporters who help every year with the Gala and the community groups who help on the day of the Gala in any way.

Tribute was paid to Mrs Mabel Christie, who died in September, for more than fifty years of involvement with and work for The Fochabers Village Association.

Planning is already underway for 2018 and another successful year is anticipated.

### **3. INSTITUTE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Gordon reported that, since the completion of refurbishment, the focus of the committee is now on the running of the hall and ensuring user satisfaction. The number of groups using the hall has doubled since it reopened and feedback has been extremely positive.

Sam Noble was appointed full time manager and moved in to the flat. She is proving to be hard working and conscientious.

A brochure has been produced to promote the hall as a venue for weddings, parties and concerts and the committee will continue to look at other ways of advertising.

The hall was nominated for best folk club venue in Scotland and the committee is grateful to the ARC sessions for organising these sessions.

Financially, things are progressing well and, with improved usage, it is hoped this will continue.

There remains work to be completed and this will be done when funds are available.

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Iain presented a positive financial report showing income from various grants, fund raising events, private donations etc .

The biomass boiler and solar panels are paying for themselves and we continue to apply for grants from different sources. The bar is also proving a good source of income.

Discussions with the builders about final payments are expected to conclude soon.

The end of year balance was £5351.70.

#### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Gordon thanked all directors for their work in bringing the hall refurbishment to a successful conclusion. He informed those present that The Moray Council is now using FVA as an example to other communities as to how to take over the running of their local halls.

The final costs for the project are almost agreed. The addition of work on the flat and stage has resulted in an additional £60,000 cost. This has meant an outstanding loan of £35,000. It is expected that the trading profit from the hall over the next two years will enable this to be repaid.

The fact that the project was completed in such a short time and on budget, bodes well for the future and is an example of what can be achieved when the community pulls together.

An application to Channel 4's Village of the Year competition was made and filming took place in the village during the summer. Fochabers will appear on the programme, in a 10 minute slot, on February 7th at 3.00pm.

The FVA now looks forward to the next project and is open to suggestions.

#### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Sheila Gray has notified Gordon that, because of business commitments, she is not standing for re-election.

The three directors who are due to stand down are:

Jeremy Evans, George Turnbull and Stewart Harris.

The proposal was that all three should be re-elected.

Proposed: Iain Rennie

Seconded: Janet Hallyburton

## **7 A.O.C.B.**

- It was hoped the hall would be officially opened in 2017 but that did not happen.
- Grants applications to People's Choice and The Beatrice Field Fund were unsuccessful.
- The Men's Shed application to The Beatrice Field Fund for money to install a stair lift was successful.
- A decision on an application for funding (£15,000) to EB Scotland will be considered on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next AGM will be held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.