

FOCHABERS PUBLIC INSTITUTE COMMITTEE (FPIC)

Department Heads

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 1st November, 2016, 7.30pm, at 29 High Street

PRESENT: Gordon Christie, Alan Brown, Iain Rennie, Stewart Harris, Liz Rennie, Una Hamilton

APOLOGIES: George Turnbull

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minute was approved.

- £700 remains in the old account. Gordon has spoken to Moira regarding outstanding bills and the need to close the account.
- The accounts have been audited and sent off, copies being sent to Companies House and Oscr.

2. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

ALAN BROWN: HALL MANAGEMENT

- The balance shown is £12,630.60 but the accounts have to be brought up to date.
- Alan has changed the format of the balance sheet in the interest of clarity.
- In answer to a query, Alan informed those present that the Youth Group give a donation in lieu of rent.
- Alan checked on the Hall usage at weekends and reported that there were 7 coffee mornings in 2015 and another 22 bookings for Saturdays and Sundays.
- There is a booking for 14th April, 2017.

STEWART HARRIS: PR

- Applications for funding from The Weir Group (£30,000) and EN Trust ((£15,000) have been submitted and decisions should be made this month.
- An application for £10,000 has been made to Awards for All to be used towards the cost of stage lighting so no work can begin on this until a decision about funding is made.
- Computer designs of the new interior illustrating the revised plan for openings between the main hall and the Christie Room have been produced and approved by all. Thanks go to Stewart's son.
- The recent article in The Fochaberian about the hall was discussed.
- It was suggested that a request for photos illustrating the history of the hall should be made. Stewart will speak to Kay Griffin about involvement of the Heritage Society.
- It was suggested that the opening of the hall could be performed by the oldest person in the village.
- A request was made that information for the Facebook page should be forwarded to Stewart.

- It was noted that the Christmas lights will be switched on on Saturday, 3rd December, Small Business Saturday.

GORDON CHRISTIE: THE PROJECT

- Work is going well. Walls have been demolished, openings created and supported between the main hall and the Christie Room. The front of the building has been cleaned. Cables are being installed and the plumber has started.
- Following an inspection of the roof, it may be that repairs will be necessary, however, the roofer is unavailable at the moment.
- Gordon, James Alexander and Bob Sharp attended a meeting with CLS Aberdeen to discuss stage lighting, sound systems and stage curtains.
 Lights: It was suggested that 4 bars of lights on stage and one at the front would be required, giving 18 lights. A control panel would be installed.
 Sound: Fixed speakers would be installed in the main hall, the Christie Room and on stage. There would be wireless microphones.
 Drapes: Black curtains would be provided for the sides and back of the stage while velour drapes would be at the front. It was suggested that there should be a metal rig below the ceiling to hold the curtains and that a motorised control for opening and closing the curtains should be provided.
- Although this work cannot proceed until the decision on the Award for All funding has been decided, the necessary cables will be installed.
- CLS Aberdeen has provided a quote for the proposed work.
- Craig Lambourne has advised on the installation of CAT cabling for internet access and CCTV.
- Iain ordered the tiles for the gents' toilet online and they have been delivered.

LIZ RENNIE: FUND RAISING

- Liz suggested that a check should be made on 300 Club payments to ensure they are up to date for the next draw.
- The Gala and Events Committee has donated £2000 to the Hall Fund.
- The Strictly Come Dancing fund raiser will take place on 29th April, 2017.
- Liz has been researching the possibility of crowd funding. Rewards for funders would need to be identified.
- £40,000 funding has been made available for local groups dealing with older people, those with drug and alcohol abuse problems and those with mental health problems. It was suggested that The Men's Shed could apply for funding for a stair lift.

3. UPDATE ON FUNDING

- Gordon has discussed the ownership of the strip of ground under the store with the Crown Estates. They provided a map showing this land is not owned by The Crown, although the land around it is.
- A neighbour has expressed concern about the state of the chimney on the shed.
- Helen Birnie has donated an old chimney, of similar design to those on the hall.

- A Memorandum of Kinship has been set up with a group in New Brunswick, Canada. It was suggested that they may like to contribute to the hall fund and, in return, a room would be named in honour of their founder.
- The cooker suggested for the kitchen is too small so a larger model will be installed.
- It was decided to install two new pillars at the entrance to the car park.
- A notice board is required for the front of the building.
- An itemised bill for work done up to the end of September, has been received from GA Construction
- VAT returns up to the end of September have been submitted.
- It was decided that another meeting was required to discuss Stewart's paper .

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 29th November – Department Heads

Tuesday, 15th November – Hall Committee