

FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

HALL COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th November, 2017, 7.30pm, The Public Institute

PRESENT: Gordon Christie, Iain Rennie, Alan Brown, Sam Noble, Janet Hallyburton, Marc Macrae, Elspeth Fordyce, Sybil Stuart, Frances Duncan, Dave Thow, Donald Cameron, Una Hamilton

APOLOGIES: Liz Rennie, Angela Brown

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Minute was approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- Liz sent her apologies for being unable to organise an events meeting because of lack of time. However, she confirmed that the Tombola will take place on 1st December, 7.00pm for 7.30, in the Institute. The Murder Mystery event has been organised for Saturday, 24th February, the title being, 'Titanic'. She was also able to confirm a performance of 'The Isle of Love' on 22nd May, 2018.

3. FUTURE OPERATION

FINANCE: ALAN BROWN

- **Income:** £15,000 has been received from EB Scotland, Dallachy Landfill. The income from Hall activities and the bar is increasing.
Stewart has made application for funding to EB Scotland, the Beatrice Field and National Lottery.
The VAT return has been completed.
- **Expenditure:** The monthly payment for biomass fuel is £650. Alan reported that in some deliveries there is an overspill of pellets. It was suggested that deliveries should be made every 6 weeks, rather than the current 5 and that the driver should check the levels by looking through the window.
Gordon reported that the company which services the boiler has gone out of business but he has been approached by former employees, who have started their own company, with an offer to continue boiler maintenance.
- **The current balance** is £106,955.29. The bill of £120,000 to GA Construction is outstanding. There should be a refund of VAT on this bill.
- **Hall Bookings:** Bookings are up 23.4%.
A wedding has been booked for 7th April, 2018. In light of this, it was decided to go ahead with installing blinds in the small committee room, which will be used by the bride and groom. Windows will be measured on Thursday.
It is hoped that another Stamp Auction will take place in April.
There has been a provisional booking by the Social Work Department and Police for a 5 day course in April.
- Bob Sharp has contacted Janet with an approach from the organiser of the Buckie Community Theatre Group, Kevin Oakes, to set up a similar group, based in the Hall. The group, to be inclusive of all, would present 2 performances per year. Following very

favourable discussion, it was agreed that Janet should follow up this offer by offering Kevin Oakes a meeting with Alan and Sam.

- Dave Thow, Men's Shed, is seeking to install an extractor fan in their room to remove strong fumes from the lathes. This would involve the removal of the top pane of the side window. It was agreed this could go ahead.
- A request for a fan behind the bar was made as there is no through put of air and it gets very hot. Gordon will investigate.
- Sam has had a request for a blind to be put in the window of the ladies' toilet to give privacy. It was agreed that this would be included with the blinds for the small room.
- Dave reported they are still waiting for a response to the Beatrice Fund, and others, for funds to install a stair lift.
- Sybil is hoping to start soon on hemming the curtains in the Christie Room,
- She has offered two soup kettles which are surplus to requirement. Gratefully accepted.
- **Stewart Harris: Booklet**

Stewart has produced a new edition of the brochure, reflecting some of the previous suggestions. Response was very favourable and there was agreement that the photos were very appealing, although it was suggested that the photo of the gents' toilet be removed.

It was suggested that, when completed, copies should be available in Avorio, Julie's Hairstylist and from the florist.

It was suggested that a table setting for a wedding could be displayed for anyone viewing the Hall for a possible booking.

Stewart had stressed the importance of social media in advertising. He reported that permission would be required from each group before their names and numbers could be published on Facebook. Sam agreed to contact all user groups.

He is continuing to develop the website and would appreciate help with the history of the Hall. It was suggested that Peter Dawson would have the necessary information. Stewart submitted an application for funding to The People's Choice (STV) and it has reached the next stage.

He has recommended a post of Advisor, for one year, to encourage a more varied use of the hall.

- The Birnie Inn has indicated a willingness to cater for functions.

4. A.O.C.B.

- Sam inquired whether the hall was being decorated for Christmas and whether we would participate in the window dressing competition. It was agreed that the Chemist would sponsor a Christmas tree for the stage.
She also asked if the Hall would be open for the switching on of the Christmas lights.
- The 300 Club draw will be made at the Tombola.
- Donald asked if the Hall was open for the public to view. Sam said that her phone number was displayed in the window and anyone could contact her for a viewing.
- Alan had contacted Moray Council regarding a digital tourist information board to be displayed in the window. There has been no response to date.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- AGM 17th January, 2018, 7.30pm

- Hall Committee Meeting, 13th February, 2018, 7.30pm