

FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION LTD

AGM

Minute of AGM held on 20th January, 2016, 7,30pm at the Public Institute

PRESENT: Gordon Christie, Iain Rennie, Stewart Harris, Sheila Gray, Una Hamilton, Elizabeth Rennie, Sybil Stuart, Elspeth Fordyce, Alan Brown, Donald Cameron

APOLOGIES: Jeremy Evans, George Turnbull, Roddy Munro

1 WELCOME

Gordon welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2 EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

As chair of the committee, Elizabeth presented the annual report.

- The Gala was a great success which allowed £6500 to be distributed within the village. £1500 was distributed among 12/13 groups. Some groups had stated they did not require as much funding as usual and some stated they did not require any funding this year. This allowed for a substantial donation of £5000 to the Hall refurbishment fund.
- A race Night is to be held in the Hall on 20th February. Application has been made for a licence and the evening will end with a disco. The organisation is well in hand. Tickets are £3.00 each.
- Other events are being planned:
 - Sunday indoor boot sales
 - Craft fair
 - Spiritualist meetingCatering for these events will be undertaken by hall user groups.
- The 300 Club is doing well and now has in excess of 100 members.
- Individual donations have been received.
- Once the refurbishment has been completed there will be a 'Strictly Come Dancing' evening.

3 INSTITUTE COMMITTEE REPORT

As Chair of the Fochabers Public Institute, Gordon presented the annual report.

- The format of the Hall Committee has been changed to accommodate Departmental Heads who have different responsibilities and are responsible for reporting back to the main committee on progress.
- This sub committee meets on a regular basis, while the main committee meetings have been changed to quarterly.
- Bookings have been steady and there is now a profit of £4300 from the day-to-day running.

- The biomass boiler has been installed and is operating. For the moment, the old radiators and pipes remain in use but will be replaced by new pipes and convector heaters in the refurbishment.
- Solar panels have been installed on the roof and readings sent to SSE.
- The architects will complete the schedule of works document this week. This will then be sent to the contractors, to be returned within one month.
- Hopefully, the work will begin in April and take six months.
- Some groups, eg the Bridge Club have received assistance in finding temporary venues.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

Iain delivered the financial report.

- The total income was £139,074.26
- The balance at 31/12/2015 was £49511.48.
- The Maintenance Fund may be required for the refurbishment.
- The format of the Financial Report will change to accommodate Companies' House.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gordon thanked everyone for their work over the year.

Following last year's AGM, public meetings were held to inform and gather support from local people.

An enormous amount of work went into preparing the business plan in the format required by Moray Council and, following many meetings, the asset transfer was achieved at 100% discount and a grant of £150,000. The process was fully supported by the three local councillors, in particular Margo Howe who presented a robust case for the transfer to the Council.

Following the transfer a new company, called Fochabers Public Institute Ltd. was set up, allowing the hall to be run as a separate VAT registered entity. The company is wholly owned by the Fochabers Village Association who now lease the building to the new company.

Plans were drawn up, planning permission was applied for and granted and a building warrant for the alterations is almost complete.

Fund raising continues, including a 300 Club. Unfortunately, an application to the lottery was unsuccessful but a new application is being prepared.

The legal transfer of the building is now complete and thanks go to ABM Solicitors for undertaking this free of charge.

Thanks also go to Steve Ryan who signed off the accounts and helped with the setup of account reporting required for a charitable company, limited by guarantee.

Various groups and individuals, including the Fochabers Heritage Group, Fochabers in Bloom, The Burn of Fochabers Committee and Paddy Douglas, were thanked for their efforts to improve the quality of the environment in Fochabers.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Three directors, Stewart Harris, Gordon Christie and George Turnbull, stepped down as required.

All were willing to re-join the Board. They were proposed, en block, by Elizabeth Rennie and seconded by Elspeth Fordyce.

7 VILLAGE HALL PROJECTS

The projected cost of the refurbishment is now £500,000, since VAT will be refunded.

The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation are examining the possibility of support the refurbishment of the kitchen.

The Abbeyfield Society, Fochabers, Ltd has expressed an interest in supporting the FVA Ltd further.

8 MEETING DATE FOR 2016/2017

It is proposed to combine the FVA Ltd and Events' Committee AGMs. The date for the joint AGM is 11th February, 2017.

9 AOCB

Donald Cameron, on behalf of the Community Council raised the question of maintenance of two benches in the Bi-centenary Park. No organisation is willing to take responsibility for repairs.

Gordon was of the opinion that there was a trust fund in place for such work and he will make enquiries. In the meantime, he suggested that these benches could be repaired at the same time as the circular benches in the Square are refreshed.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm