

FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th August, 2017, 7.30pm, The Hub

PRESENT: Gordon Christie, Iain Rennie, Liz Rennie, Alan Brown, George Turnbull, Sam Noble, Una Hamilton, Sybil Stuart, Elspeth Fordyce, Janet Hallyburton, Shona Morrison.

APOLOGIES: Angus Gordon Lennox, Frances Duncan, Angela Brown, Marc Macrae

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute was approved.

MATTERS ARISING

- Una wrote to Margo to express the thanks of the committee for her input and support over the years, but particularly during the transfer of the hall to community ownership.
- Una wrote to Stewart to express the committee's thanks for the tremendous effort and time he has given to the work in setting up the hall as a community asset.
- Una wrote to Ann Miller to thank her for her donation to the hall fund from the Mind, Body and Spirit day.
- Caroline Campbell, Scottish Opera, visited the hall on 18th July to assess suitability as a venue for travelling productions. She was very impressed by the hall itself as well as all the facilities available. She took lots of photos and suggested the hall would be a suitable venue. She stated that the tours were organised well in advance and that we could be included in either the autumn, 2018 or spring, 2019 tours. She will get in touch as soon as a decision is made.
- Sybil reported that the curtains in the main hall were taken down, unpicked and then re-rown by hand to make them hang better. Lead weights have been ordered for the hems of the longer curtains. It was acknowledged that the expertise and skill of the volunteers has saved a considerable amount of money in undertaking this task.
- People have commented on how comfortable the new chairs are.
- The Terms and Conditions have been confirmed and finalised.
- Sam has been appointed Hall Manager and has moved in to the flat. She has undertaken bar training.
- The Federation website remains to be updated.
- The Mind, Body and Spirit day, an annual event, went well. Contributors and public expressed satisfaction with the facilities, including catering provided by committee members.
- The hall was used for Gala Sunday activities because of the weather and was very successful. It brought many people into the hall for the first time.
- AOCB. Correction: The FVA have to pay for the hire of the hall.

2. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Gordon: The Project

Gordon reported that, now that The Project is almost completed, forward plans need to be drawn up, particularly in the use of the hall as a wedding venue.

The next step is to prepare a portfolio, to present to potential users. It was suggested that a Wedding Fayre could be held, once the portfolio is available.

Alan: Finance

INCOME:

- Income from the 300 Club has dropped.
- The biggest booking of the year, a Stamp Auction, takes place at the end of September over 2 days.
- Income for June and July shows improvement, helped greatly by bar takings.
- Income from the biomass boiler goes into the Village Association account.
- £20,000 was received from The Robertson Trust.

MONTHLY BALANCE: £63,713.39

George:

- Repairs completed include the fixing of a tap and a urinal.
- There is a leak on the first landing which remains to be fixed.
- The stage curtain is now working.
- The wi-fi system has been boosted.
- There was discussion around the renewal of the boiler maintenance contract which is due in August and it was decided to opt for the Silver Plan. Gordon will check on whether there may be a financial incentive to take a 3 year contract.
- There is a bill for £75 for locks on the Men's Shed store.
- Sam agreed to compile an instruction manual for use of kitchen equipment.
- A list of user groups will be on public view in the hall.
- Terms and conditions, detailing responsibilities of users and the Fochabers Public Institute, are included on the booking form.

Liz: Fund Raising:

- Liz questioned whether it was time to look again at fund raising, the roles of the Hall Committee and the Gala and Events Committee.
- It was agreed that a variety of events is required to appeal to different audiences and to bring a wide spectrum of people into the hall.
- Suggestions for events included: Tombolas, Country and Western Night, Musical concerts by known artists, Comedy Night, Film Nights/Matinees, Psychic meetings, Murder Mystery Night.
- Liz, Sybil, Janet and Una agreed to meet to identify, initially, three events which would be held prior to Christmas. It would be hoped that three events would be held each quarter. These could be linked to the Gala and Events Committee.
- It was agreed that the Hogmanay party should end at 11.30pm.

3. FUTURE OPERATION.

- There was discussion around advertising the hall and its facilities, as well as the events taking place. It was suggested that a Twitter account and Facebook account could be opened.
- It was decided that a marketing group should be set up to have an overarching view of promoting the hall.

4. A.O.C.B.

- Fochabers has reached the last 76 in the 'Village of the Year' Competition, organised by Channel 4, to be televised in October. A TV crew, including Penelope Keith, was filming in the village for a few days.
- There was a suggestion from a member of the public that there should be an annual 'Citizen of the Year' award. After discussion, the idea was rejected.
- Liz will follow up a possible feature of the hall in KN.
- In order to encourage more user groups to contribute to the running of the hall by attending Committee meetings, the Minutes will be sent to each group.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7th November, 7.30pm, The Hub.