

FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

AGM

Wednesday, 17th January, 2018. 7.30pm. Christie Room

PRESENT: Gordon Christie, Iain Rennie, Alan Brown, Helen Morrison, Donald Cameron, Sybil Stuart, Chris Overing, Bill Royan, Alison Clavey, Sam Noble, George Turnbull, Mike Fox, Liz Rennie, Caroline Leslie.

APOLOGIES: Stewart Harris, Lorna Welan, Una Hamilton, Audrey McCauley, George McIntyre, Elspeth Fordyce, Jane Williams,

1. WELCOME, MINUTE OF PREVIOUS AGM

Gordon welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

The Minute of the previous AGM was approved by Donald Cameron and seconded by Iain Rennie

2. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Liz reminded the meeting that Gala and Events Committee fell under the umbrella of Fochabers Village Association and were committed to supporting the Hall.

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

We gave our support to the following fundraising events in the Hall:

March	Murder Mystery – Death in the Distillery
May	Jazz in the Village
	The Isle of Love Musical Play – Right Lines Productions
July	Tombola Night
August	Psychic Night
September	Islander Play
December	Christmas Bring a Party to a Party
	Christmas Lights switch on

This represented a wide genre of entertainment.

There has been a successful setting up of a Cinema Club which to date has been well supported. The starting up of a Community Theatre Group who have had two productions so far, Our Day Out in the summer and a very successful Pantomime – Dick Whittington in December and we were delighted to help financially with this project. They are currently in rehearsals for their next show.

The Arc Sessions had a successful year in 2018 and have already booked further concerts for 2019. Thanks to Mhairi Marwick for her continued support of the hall.

Fochabers Heritage held a very successful event to mark the 100 years of the ending of World War 1.

The Gala continued with the weekend events and this year was very successful. We were blessed with lovely weather which encouraged people to come out. A sum of over £7000 was handed out to Village Organisations.

Planning is already underway for 2019 and another successful year is anticipated.

3. INSTITUTE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Hall bookings have increased substantially over the year with about 660 bookings in 2018, which is approximately a 70% increase on the previous year. Several new groups are now using the hall, such as the Theatre Group and the Film Club, which we are delighted to encourage. We also thank all our regular users without whom we would struggle to provide such an important asset as this to the community.

As we have heard there has been a varied selection of acts and events over the year which we are delighted to support and also pleased that the ARC Sessions are a great advert for the hall.

During the year we have been successful in obtaining grants with £15000 received from EB Scotland and £10000 from Awards for All. This has allowed us to complete additional work in the hall, with extra hand dryers in the toilets, larger round tables and additional kitchen equipment. We also refurbished the stage area and added additional sound equipment, as well as carpeting the balcony.

With a full year of trading during the year we are delighted to report a profit of £13900, which will go towards paying off part of the outstanding loan from 2017. We still have some works planned for this year with outside painting of the walls and Air Conditioning for the balcony. We are waiting to see if we are successful with further grant applications.

I will finish by congratulating Sam for the excellent job she does in managing the hall and thank Alan for all his hard work with the booking and accounts. We also could not operate without the numerous volunteers who are on the committee, work the bar, and provide catering at many events. Thank you to all.

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.

There is still work to be done with the Playing Field Fence Project.

The end of year balance was £27361.15. Part of this balance will be used to repay part of the outstanding loan.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In February 2018 we saw the village feature on the TV with the Village of the Year Competition. It was slightly disappointing as it did not feature all the excellent work we undertook refurbishing the hall but overall, it was a good advert for the village. We did try to capitalize on it and the businesses which were highlighted paid for banners to be erected on the roads around the village to attract extra visitors. We were delighted too receives funds from the events committee to install a defibrillator at the front of the hall and are grateful to G&A Construction for installing this for free.

We recently finished replacing the old rotten fence at the playing field with a quality metal fence which is a great improvement, especially with the extra parking off Burnside Road. This, along with some other tidying up was completed thanks to a grant from EB Scotland for nearly £20,000 and Money for the Developers Contribution from Moray Council.

We are extremely grateful to all the hard-working volunteers who help in the community, especially all those involved in the Gala and Events Committee. They have raised an unbelievable amount this year which has all been used to benefit the community.

Special thanks go to several individuals who work away quietly in the background. Paddy Douglas who keeps the grass in the Square looking perfect, John Laing who has cleaned the fountain in the Square several times this year, Steve Ryan who audits our accounts and Stewart Harris who applies for funding, checks the website and finalises the Hall brochures.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Three directors who are due to stand down are:

Gordon Christie, Roddy Munro, Iain Rennie.

All had said that they were happy to re-stand and it was proposed and seconded that all three should be re-elected.

Proposed: George Turnbull

Seconded: Donald Cameron

The three directors still in office are Jeremy Evans, George Turnbull and Stewart Harris

7. A.O.C.B.

Donald Cameron, representing Lennox Community Council, spoke about the upcoming dualling of the A96, and the concerns about the traffic being diverted through the village and asked the meeting for opinions. The general feeling was that it should be ensured that the traffic continues to use the existing bypass , It was also

noted that there had been some conversation with the design team that there should be no problem as the work on the dualled part of the by-pass was to be on the north side of the existing road and apart from reducing the overtaking lanes, traffic should not impact in the village.

Gordon Christie raised the point about the amount of parking in the village and discussion took place about removing the yellow no parking lines and the traffic lights in the High Street as it was felt that these were no longer required. This would mean that the whole of the High Street would be available for parking. Donald Cameron expressed concern about the removal of the traffic lights and advised that traffic still passed Fochabers, sometimes at speed and it would be regretful if they were removed.

Donald Cameron advised the meeting that there were currently four vacancies on the Community Council and invited people to join.

The Toilets at the park are currently closed due to vandalism. Discussion took place as to whether they should be reopened, but the meeting felt there was a definite need for the toilets.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next AGM will be held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020 in the Christie Room at 7:30.