

FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

GALA AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st August, 2019, 8.00pm, The Hub.

PRESENT: Liz Rennie (Chair), Iain Rennie (Treasurer), Gordon Christie, Sam Noble, John Howie, Pat Jenkins, Emma Jenkins, Chris Overing, Alison Clavie, Helen Morrison, George McIntyre, Donald Cameron, Marc MacRae, Una Hamilton, Michelle Goode (TSi Moray)

APOLOGIES: Caroline Leslie, Jane Williams, Mike Fox, Sybil Stuart

1. WELCOME

Liz opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. She introduced Michelle Goode from TSi Moray and thanked her for attending.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Mr Clayton.** Liz announced that Mr Clayton, who, with his horse and cart, had participated in previous Galas had been unable to attend this year because of ill health. Liz sent a card on behalf of the committee. However, she had to report that, sadly, Mr Clayton died. Sybil sent a note of condolence from the Committee.
 - **Gordon Chapel.** Liz reminded members that there is to be a service on 24th November to mark the completion of the lift installation.
 - **Future Events.**
 - Tipsy Tea Party: To date, interest in this event has been disappointing. The sub committee will meet on 3rd September to decide whether or not it is viable.
 - Party Night: Arrangements for this are ongoing.
 - Christmas Lights: Iain will phone to inquire the progress of the new lights,
 - 2020 Gala: The date is, as yet, undecided although the Hall has been provisionally booked for the weekend of 25th July. A decision will be taken when the date of Speyfest is announced.
- The Hall is already booked on the weekends 11th and 17th July for weddings.

The Minute was duly adopted.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

4. GALA FEEDBACK

- Closing date for applications for funding is 28th September. Two applications have been received so far and two organisations have intimated they will not require support this year.
- There was a very good report on the gala in The Fochaberian. Liz recommended that there should be a report in every edition.

The P and J published a Gala photo on the Monday. The Buckie Advertiser published photos and a report the following week, as did The Northern Scot, although it was disappointing that it was the same photos and report as The Buckie Advertiser.
- Thursday: The ceremony in The Square with the VIPs went well. The Tombola was very busy, taking £1473.05, the best ever. Thanks go to Bill's brother who was the caller.

Friday: The change of location for The Duck Race was successful. There were 405 ducks, the second best participation. The concert, including Young Musician was most enjoyable.

Saturday: The opening parade, including tractors and the fire engine was quite a spectacle.

There were 150 entrants for The Jean Carr Race, an excellent turn out.

Music by Andy Leighton James was very much appreciated.

The Craft Fair had 18 tables, plus 2 outside and The Men's Shed. Unfortunately, there were fewer visitors. The Men's Shed were very pleased that 43 people went upstairs to see them and ask lots of questions.

The Strawberry Teas were very busy.

Lorna Young had activities, including archery, for young children, in The Square.

The Junior races went very well. It was suggested that, next year, other activities eg. Bouncy Castle could be going on at the same time. This activity would require a risk assessment. Thanks to Megan for organising the event.

It was noted that the grass in The Square had not been cut which restricted the bowling activity. Apologies went to the Bowling Club.

The Quiz Night was very successful. There were 17 teams. This was Jim Kilpatrick's last year of compiling the Quiz. John Green, already his successor as Quiz Master, will take over compiling the questions. The bar was sold out.

It was reported that the volunteers had enjoyed the day and that some, including Shona Morrison had already volunteered to help next year.

- Donald raised the question of safety in The Square and proposed the Saturday event should be relocated to the Playing Fields. Alison also stated her concerns and opinions about safety aspects, suggesting there should be a road closure for the duration of the Gala Day in The Square.

There followed a discussion about different venues and previous years. It was suggested that members should think about arrangements and possible risk factors to be discussed at the next meeting.

The police will be contacted re safety arrangements.

- Iain addressed the Gala financial statement which shows an overall profit of £7061.80, a very good result. All contributors and volunteers were thanked.

5. A.O.C.B.

Michelle Goode, from TSi Moray, was invited to address the meeting. She explained her role was to deliver support to existing and new organisations within the area from Cullen to Lhanbryde. She expressed her admiration for the strength of community spirit in Fochabers and the number of volunteers willing to help.

- Donald informed the meeting that Lennox Community Council will probably be dissolved because of lack of members. At the moment, there are less than 7, making the Council unviable.

He invited anyone interested to attend a meeting next week.

- Thanks to John Laing for taking over grass cutting duties in The Square from Paddy Douglas.
- There was a discussion about the defibrillators in the village. It was suggested that one should be placed at the western end of the village. The Co-op Community Fund is in support of defibrillators.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 2nd October 2019, 8.00pm, when applications for grants will be discussed.