

# Shieldaig Community Association

Minutes 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Present: Pauline McNeil, Jim Alexander, Ann Barton, Nommie Cameron, Brian Ash, Lyndsay Dacker, later - Sarah Wedgwood

Apologies: Peter Fenton, Kenny Livingstone, Sarah Wedgwood for late arrival

Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> June '15 accepted.

## **Treasurers Report**

Jim A still has no on-line access to the bank account and would like help from Steph to reconcile the accounts.

A summary from the Fete showed an income of £9857.64, expenditure of £6074.54 producing a surplus of £3783.10, however there were a few items of income (income & expenditure still to go into the account).

## **Maintenance Report**

The Sports field was left in a mess after the fete football event, both in terms of litter and the ground being cut up badly in front of goals. This damage was compounded by the contract grass cutters churning up the very wet ground. The sports court has not been aerated this year - Jim is seeking advice.

Nommie has been strimming back bracken and treating verges twice a year (requires 1 gallon of undiluted round-up). The experiment using weed killer on the rushes seems to be working.

We have the paint to do the seats - just need some better weather to get them done before winter.

The blocks for the tents will be stored by Duncan B's shed.

We have the new piece of timber to replace the shelf outside the service hatch in the hall.

## **Activity report**

**Fete** - the tents stood up to the weather reasonably well (the Gala tent used for the bar was holed in the roof when it overturned - some stick on sail repair tape should work). We have more frames than canvas (2 frames are not Galatent but only 1 cover a different make). The blocks to hold the tents down work best when on the ground with taut ropes, as the frames are not robust enough for the weight of the blocks). Football - once again no entry fees charged but tray of Tenants expected as prize - Jim A to have a word with those involved.

There is a rumour of sheepshed being revived - Pauline to check with Angie. Loch Torridon Community Centre are considering booking a headline band for next year Friday night.

An Carrannach - Pauline Mackenzie sending entry to thank for raffle & will add thanks for support & help for the Fete.

Need fire retardant gloves for new BBQ. Jim A to check if BBQ been cleaned & fat trap emptied. The fat trap seems to overflow very quickly - can we use larger container? Leaner beef-burgers for next year.

## **Planning other events for the year:**

Halloween (Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct) & kids Xmas party (possibly 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec) - Lyndsay D said the parents & school will organise.

Bonfire 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> Nov - Fireworks deadline for 20% discount 14<sup>th</sup> Aug Ann B to order. Pauline McN away. We could do soups and use the frozen surplus beef burgers to have BBQ.

Christmas lunch 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – we could try cooking a meal in the new kitchen this year. Sarah W to co-ordinate. School to be invited to sing 2pm.

## **Project report**

There are rumours going around that the SCA have spent or plan to spend £4500 - £8000 on curtains for the Hall and £2000 on china for the kitchen. This is incorrect. There is a budget for equipment, china and cutlery for the kitchen. There remains around £1500 in the kitchen 'account' some of which needs to be spent on extra teaspoons, large new pans and roasting trays.

No money has been spent on curtains to date and the Trustees have decided not to replace the main curtains with new (due to cost) – other options are still being explored.

John Murphy was approached by Kenny L for a quote to make shutters for the windows. However the recess is too narrow to easily accommodate shutters. The cost for 3 leaf shutters is £650 per window, 4 leaf shutters £750 – this is much more expensive than new curtains. We will now cost look into blinds - Pauline McN to get quotes for roller blinds (black out in preference to thermal) for the 5 hall windows. Sarah W & Jim A offered to go to look at the old curtains from Torridon Hall to see if they could be re-made to fit the large curtain track.

Nommie thinks painting the recess of the windows will let more light in.

We discussed the results of the project consultation again and it was made clear to Trustees who have been absent from previous meetings that there was a very clear result – the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Hall refurbishment was the first choice of the community. We created opportunities on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb & 21<sup>st</sup> March for anyone unsure to ask questions.

*Background to 2<sup>nd</sup> phase Hall refurbishment: The kitchen project team looked into replacing the curtains in the Hall, new poles/track and new tables 2 years ago. 3 quotes for curtains were obtained. However the cost of raising funds for new curtains would have slowed the kitchen project down so it was decided by the team to split the Hall refurbishment into 1, kitchen replacement and 2, Hall refurbishment.*

It was suggested by Sarah W that we should have costings for the other projects mentioned in the consultation and that the consultation was only a straw poll and would need re-doing with more information provided. The Trustees are not all in agreement with this view. It was pointed out that various Trustees did some work along those lines, the results were made available at the consultation evenings, ahead of the community voting for the different projects. Sarah W has elected to do some research on swimming pool options, costs and potential funders. The problem still remains that the costs will be hugely variable depending on the size of pool, type of heating and whether it is covered or not. Brian Ash (who has witnessed the funding difficulties of larger village projects) is sceptical that funding will not be available when the benefits are limited to such small numbers of the community.

## **AOCB**

Lyndsay D to organise flowers for the kitchen project team to thank them for their hard work.

Next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> October 7pm Hall