

Minutes of a Meeting of the Shildaig Community Association

held at 7pm on Thursday 4 October 2018 in the Shildaig Village Hall

Present:

Pauline Stephenson, Viv Rollo, Fiona Moyes, Andy Moyes, Mya Aronica, Hugh Gosling, John McGregor, Jim Alexander and Janene Waudby. Apologies for absence were received from Nick McNeil, Tom Tindale, Emily Harriss and Peter Fenton.

Introduction:

Pauline noted a quorum was present and tabled the agenda for the meeting.

Finance Report:

Jim summarised the financial position for the SCIO. There had been an opening balance for the year of around £31,000 and around £20,000 of that remains at the year end. The difference can mainly be accounted for by the new community shed, shelving and electricity. There had also been a new village hall door installed during the year. The fete made a net profit of £7187 and the booklets made a profit of around £500. The costs of running and maintaining the hall were around £1284 for the year, although the Royal Mail had recently paid rent of £1500 (which was paid late so will be accounted for in the next financial year). The pontoon and moorings had raised around £1200 after expenses.

Pontoon and Moorings:

A discussion was then held on formalising the charging structure for the pontoon for locals as well as visitors, and also possibly requiring visitors to pay a "fee" as opposed to a "donation". Methods of preserving the pontoon were also discussed. John McGregor agreed to talk to Kenny Livingstone and Julian Fox to formalise the proposals. Andy Moyes also agreed to move the old campsite donations box and replace it for the box on the pontoon (which is less secure).

Village Hall Exterior:

It was noted that the Church had been made aware of the exterior condition of the hall and discussions were being held regarding whether the Church would pay for painting. It was agreed that the SCIO would wait for the Church's conclusion (noting that if the Church could not afford the reparations, then the SCIO would have to consider doing that).

Toilet Block:

It was noted that the question of Council funding for the toilet block had been handed to the Community Council for the time being (it having become a widespread political issue between local communities and the Highland Council). It was noted that if the Highland Council made a definitive decision on closing the block, then the SCIO would consider making an application to acquire the same. John McGregor agreed to repair the lock on the men's toilets in the meantime.

DTA/Constitution Update:

The Secretary then reported that the SCIO had been accepted as a member of the DTA. The amended constitution had also been filed with OSCR and we await their response within 42 days.

Asset Transfer Update:

The meeting then discussed the right to buy in relation to the school house. Preparatory work was being done on this (even if the actual application could not be filed until the constitution had been changed). Viv Rollo summarised her communications with the Council. After discussion, it was agreed that:

1. a basic valuation should be obtained on the house and costing for its conversion. John McGregor agreed to arrange this;
2. further consideration should be given to whether the house should be converted into one or two units, it being noted that two units were likely to be more expensive to achieve and would also create less space for a teacher.

Balgy Estate Update/Housing:

The Secretary reported that she had spoken to Sir Hugh Tollemache who was not yet in a position to report on the sale of the estate, but he had been able to confirm that the common grazings were not for sale. Sir Hugh had proposed coming to the next SCIO meeting in November to provide an update. He remained broadly in agreement with making new plots available for social/affordable housing. A brief discussion was held on the benefits of modular housing and Mya Aronica agreed to circulate details of her house which was cost effective and also warm (later confirmed as www.retreathomes.co.uk).

Autumn/Christmas Events:

The Chairman agreed to speak to Lisa Scott regarding Halloween arrangements. It was noted that the pub may also be planning an event. Jim confirmed the fireworks had been ordered and he would speak to Alan Milne about managing those. It was also agreed that if Nanny's birthday celebrations are only an afternoon (and not an evening) event, then the fireworks would be held on Saturday 3rd November. Mya Aronica agreed to confirm this. The Chairman also agreed to speak to the School about the mothers arranging the children's Christmas party. £130 was also committed towards the bus for the Gairloch children. It was noted that the Christmas party for the older residents cost £548 last year and that Lynn would not be able to order the food this year, but would be able to help.

Other matters:

Andy Moyes agreed to make repairs to the noticeboards.

Jim Alexander noted that £1016 remained of the "sea eagle" funds after installation of the noticeboards. This could be made available for further leaflets.

Next Meeting:

Pauline then noted that a further meeting should be held in November once Sir Hugh had confirmed his availability.

Close of Meeting:

There being no further business, the meeting closed.