

Minutes Directors' Meeting 23/07/2022

Meeting opened: 17:37

Present: Susan, Ann, Gabriel, Kate, Sian, Andy, Ian

Apologies:

Chair report:

- Midsummer fete – this went very well and we should hold it again next year and expand some of the activities and competitions as well as more pre-advertising to give people time to organise entries.
- ACC meeting 28/07/2022 – if people have anything to bring up then they should email the ACC beforehand so that it can be put on the agenda. The traffic slowing measures for Elphin are already on the agenda and Virginie Moyne has already spoken to Marianne Hutchinson and shown her the problem areas around the village. Sian suggested we bring up the lack of late bus on a Friday which means children cannot participate in after-school activities. **Ann** to bring milk and biscuits for meeting.

Treasurer Report:

Account Balances: £6727.78 £2514.25

Accounts paid:

Zurich Insurance	£757.87	Andy (fete expenses)	£106.47
Andrew Parker	£186.00	Ann (fete & maintenance expenses)	£182.76
		Ullapool News (fete)	£ 30.00

Income:

Markets	£ 400.00
Wild camper	£ 20.00
Fete	£ 801.05

- **Midsummer fete** – Final profit, after all expenses will probably be about £350. Kitchen was biggest earner, then kid's games/tombola and competitions/football/auction.
- **Treasurer changeover** – Gabriel and Ian still have not had time to do a full changeover but are trying to arrange a time to do it, so Ian still does not have authority at the bank.
- **On-line banking** - still needs to be set up and the 4 board members to have viewing rights will be Gabriel, Susan, Andy and Ann while the treasurer (Ian) will have withdrawal rights.

Ongoing Business:

- **Membership** – Since starting to use Membermojo, 6 people have requested that they are taken off email list (Carolyn & Russell Basham, Rob Sherman, Victoria Watt, Sam Richards, Shana Henderson) so Ann has also removed them from membership list. There have also been 10 bounce-backs of email addresses that are no longer viable - for 4 we have no postal address (Ivan Young, Steven McSweeney, Lewis McDonald, Melissa Gibbs), and for 6 we do have an original address (Andrew Tibbs, Val & Nigel Hollamby, Donna-Claire Hunter, Martin Hayes, John Crae). It was decided to remove all 10 from the membership lists. All are associate members.
- **Website** – **Gabriel** still has not had time to meet with Ann to take over the role as web master so **Ann** will update the directors list and post the latest minutes on the website.
- **“Acre of land”**
 - Simon suggested we join Community Land Scotland which gives support and advice for communities trying to get their own land. It is free to join while you are trying to get the land. It was decided that we would join. **Ann**
 - **Ann** has finally been able to get the name of a person to contact in the HC (**Kenneth Forbes | Estates Manager**) and has emailed a reply asking if the HC will give us the hall and acre of land. She has tried ringing his mobile but so far, no reply. All agreed that we should see if we can purchase the hall for a nominal amount and if not to continue trying to get a definition of the actual area that we are renting from the HC.
- **Heating and Energy** –from CARES: Let’s Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund we can get up to £80 000 but need to contribute 20% of total cost. **Ann** has started putting an application together but hall ownership etc needs to be sorted out first. It was decided that we aim for solar panels, replacing lighting with LEDs and an infrared heating system because until we get better insulation a heat pump will cause a waste of energy due to heat loss. To apply for the Grant, we need an EPC (energy performance certificate) so **Andy** will speak to Jason Leon to try and arrange one for the hall. He may be able to give us advice on insulation as well.
- **Maintenance needs** –
 - Electrical work - we need outside lighting upgraded to LED and a PIR installed near front door. Also look at renewing 2-way switch to main hall lights by front door
 - Finish off kitchen splashback - **Andy**
 - Barge boards still need painting
- first aid/defibrillator - **Andy** will contact Chris to organise
- Assynt Community Council have funded the banner project and given us £300. **Ann** will thank them at the ACC meeting and show them what the finished project will look like

Other Business:

- **Electricity –**

- our contract with SSE expires on 31 August and they have offered us a new, 2 year contract, at much higher rates.

Quarterly charge: £31.90 £66.86

Night rate 12.045p 28.15p

Day rate 15.469p 37.73p

Fits 0.67p 0.735p

This offer expires on 1st August so **Ian** will see what other companies will offer and we will make a decision before the expiry date.

Gabriel will check to make sure that we are not paying VAT as charities do not need to.

Sian will check to see if we can still get a “Heating and Lighting” grant from the council

- If we cannot get cheaper rates, then next year we will need to review what we charge for hall hire, markets and for local groups such toddlers and craft circle to use the hall. One idea for these local groups was for them to be able to raise funds by providing tea/coffee cake at the markets.

- **Alterations to kitchen window/corridor wall**

- Markets people have requested we look at changing window in kitchen to allow permanent open/serving options and changing corridor wall to allow food seating area. All agreed that changing the kitchen window so that it will operate like a servery is a good idea. **Andy** will ask local joiners if they could give us a quote for the work.

Removing the corridor wall requires more investigation as to whether having the toilets leading off the space will allow food to be consumed there.

- We also need to arrange a hygiene inspection for the new kitchen to get the appropriate certificate.

Chicken Day Organisation

- **Games** – hook a duck, obstacle course egg throw, guess the weight of a chicken (Susan’s chicken), guess the name of the chicken (Sian to provide prize), where did the chicken lay her egg grid, pin the beak on the chicken, whisky bottle coin throw, chuck a chicken, pairs egg throwing, egg and spoon races, kids activities, kid’s lucky dip, kid’s and adult tombola, treasure hunt? table football?
- **Competitions** – best dressed cage, most handsome cockerel, prettiest hen, kid’s best decorated egg box, best mixed 1/2 doz eggs, best matched 1/2 doz eggs
- **Race betting** - Brendan
- **Advertising 2 weeks in advance** – Facebook (Susan), ELKCAL website (Gabriel), Northern Times (Ann), Ullapool News (Ann), Assynt News (Ann), Radio (Susan), Laminated posters – Tain Vet (Kate), Rogart Vet (Kate), roadside signs (Andy & others)
- **Raffle prizes** – Sian (Quarry, Forestry), Susan (Vestys, Delicasea, 3 Little Bakers, Bone Caves coffee van, Surf and Turf) Ann (Rhidorroch Gin, Elphin Tearooms)
- **Donations** – Tesco eggs (Ann)
- **Food** – venison burgers, beef burgers, chicken burgers? sausages (have some from fete), veggie burgers (have some from fete), cakes (donations?), drinks (have some from fete), tea, coffee

2022 Events

Chicken Day - 17th September, 1pm onwards

Curry Night - 29th October

Christmas Dinner – 3rd December

Meeting closed: 19:18

Next meeting: Saturday 20th August at 17:30