**Minutes of a Meeting of the Shieldaig Community Association**

held at 7pm on Thursday 30 September 2021 in Shieldaig Village Hall

**Present :**

Pauline Stephenson (Chair), Jim Alexander (Treasurer), Janene Waudby (Secretary), Phil Collins, Lynn Cameron (Apologies for absence: Tom Tindale, Mya Aronica, John McGregor, Viv Rollo, Andy Moyes, Fiona Moyes)

**Chair**

It was noted that Lynn Cameron had kindly agreed to become the SCA’s chair. The trustees wished to thank Pauline for her long service to the SCA.

**School renovation update:**

A discussion and update were given on the renovation of the schoolhouse. It was noted that good progress was being made on the building works and that the works were estimated to finish ahead of schedule, perhaps by 30 November.

**Toilets**

It was noted that Jim is in the process of handing over the Treasurer role to Phil Collins. Jim reported that total receipts for the toilets for the year to date are £6566 (with some more to come before the season ends). Total expenses over the same period are £4352. The toilets therefore are being run at around £2000 annual profit. It was agreed the profit should be ringfenced for future maintenance expenses. The benefits of having John McNeil ‘on site’ were noted, as he chases for payment and is able to keep a close eye on their use and condition.

The benefits of installing an electronic payment system were also discussed whereby visitors would gain access with a bank card, requiring a small payment. This is based on community observations that only a minority of people using the toilets actually contribute cash. It was agreed to wait and see if the telephone line due to be installed in the hall would mean that the toilets could receive a boosted wifi signal from the hall. If not, the Secretary would investigate the cost of installing a phone line to the toilets.

Jim also noted that Martin MacLeod had been paid for cleaning the hall during the covid period when the hall wasn’t being used (as an informal furlough arrangement). Jim agreed to speak to Martin about whether he wanted to continue to clean the hall after the nursery had relocated back to the school building. If not, that payment would now stop.

Jim Alexander also outlined the benefits of registering with HMRC for gift aid – meaning an additional 25% could be claimed on donations (with a limit where no gift aid is claimed directly by the donor). It was agreed that Jim would do the paperwork for this.

It was noted that the Woodland Trust had kindly agreed to make an annual donation if it could display some information in or around the toilet block. The Secretary had agreed to discuss this further closer to the Spring.

**OAP lunch**

It was agreed that it was impractical to hold the OAP lunch in the village hall while it was still being used as a nursery. It was agreed that as arrangements could be made at short notice, it would be decided at the next meeting whether to postpone the lunch or hold it at a different venue (if the building works would not be finished by Christmas).

**Fireworks**

It was noted that the building works to the school meant that the usual place for the bonfire would not be practical. Pauline agreed to speak to Ruairidh about using the campsite for the fireworks. (It was subsequently noted that the campsite would still be in operation during early November and so Pauline is investigating other venues). If a venue can be found, the fireworks would be on Friday 5th November or the following day in the event of bad weather. The Secretary agreed to make a poster and advertise on Facebook once arrangements had been made.

**Sale of Church Hall:**

The proposed sale of the hall to the SCA was discussed. Janene reported that the survey and valuation had taken place but no report had yet been received. A title report had been received from the solicitors and it was “clean” with no points of concern. It was noted that there was a right of access across the front of the Church for the Highland Council and also the owners of Kirkburn, but otherwise nothing of note. The Secretary agreed to chase the valuers with a view to agreeing a price with the Church by 15 November so that a business plan could be submitted to the Scottish Land Fund. It was noted that if this deadline was missed, it would not be a problem as the Scottish Land Fund had confirmed another funding window in February 2022. It was discussed whether we are likely to receive 100% of the price from the Scottish Land Fund. The Secretary reported that she was confident of receiving the majority of the funding due to the strength of our case (I.e our long history of community use and maintenance). However, it was less certain the extent to which the Scottish Land Fund would require us to inject any money ourselves. The Secretary agreed to discuss this with our contact at the Scottish Land Fund in case a contingency is needed.

It was noted that the air source heating in the hall was ‘on its last legs’ and that the Church had received a quote of around £6000 for replacing the same. It had been agreed with the Church and valuer that the market value of the hall would be increased to reflect a repaired system if that was arranged. The Secretary agreed to speak to the Church to find out what progress had been made on this, and also to question the benefit of re-siting the air source unit to the back of the Church where it would be less open to the elements.

**SCA Trustees/Annual return:**

Jim agreed to submit the SCA’s annual return to OSCR and also to reflect the resignations of Peter Fenton and Nick McNeil and appointments of Lynn and Phil.

**Beaters/fire risk**

It was noted that following the fire on the island, Alice MacLennan had kindly donated two beaters (the only beaters currently available being located at Kinloch). The Secretary would ask John MacGregor to make a storage system for those at the big shed by the school. The benefits of a back pack sprayer system were also discussed but it was decided that, based on observations during the fire, buckets are probably as effective (given the back packs themselves at the fire were being refilled with buckets which could just have been splashed/put on the fire). The Secretary had emailed the new local ranger about signage for the lsland and he had agreed it was worth exploring based on the presence of the sea eagles. The Secretary agreed to contact him to ask the NT to submit a proposal.

**AOB:**

(a) the sale of Couldoran to the Woodland Trust was noted. It was also noted that the existing tenants were not being evicted and that the Woodland Trust would be considering potential affordable housing at the site.

(b) the Celtman event was proposing to hold a second sprint event in 2022. The usual full distance event would be held on June 18th and the short event on 25th June (also starting at 5am). The pressure on accommodation was noted, but the athletes and organisers would be aware of that.

(c) the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3rd November at 7pm.

**Close of Meeting:**

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Lynn Cameron (Chairperson).