**ACHMORE COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 2pm**

1.Present; Rennee Gibson, Mhairi MacRae, Ellane Fraser, Jackie Parsons, Sue Waddell.

2. Apologies; Patti Heaviside, Marion Howat.

3.Approval of September Minutes; Ellanne approved the minutes and Jackie seconded the minutes.

4.Treasurer’s Report; the balance in the Hall Bank Account is £ 8928.95. There has been a payment of £3266.36 from the Energy Savings Trust. Jackie will contact Mhairi MacSween to clarify exactly what this is for. A mastercard for the sum up machine has arrived.It was agreed that we will not use the card. As there is no payment for the card, it was agreed that it should be kept anyway. The paperwork has come through for the new electricity contract and charges are slightly cheaper than on the Hall’s previous electricity contract. It has also been confirmed that the Hall should now be able to obtain a Smart Meter enabling us to access special tariffs. This will be particularly useful once the PV panels are installed allowing off peak tariffs to be accessed. [once the air source heat pump is installed allowing access to special low price tariffs available for ASHP heating systems ]. Renee reported that the oil tank is half full. The heating needs to be turned up now that the outside temperature has dropped.

5. Booking Report; An Apple Day to include children’s activities has been arranged for Saturday 12th October. A children’s party has been booked for Saturday 14th October.

6. 100 club; 1st Prize Simon Walker £25

2nd Prize Kenny Martin £15

3rd Prize Jane Caithness £10

7. Hall Governance/Legal; Jackie, Sue and a member of the path group met with Jo Ford from SLCVO to discuss what the Hall becoming a SCIO would entail. Following feedback from the meeting it was agreed that the committee would not take the decision whether the Hall should become a SCIO without further discussions with the Community. It was agreed that there should be an open Community meeting with representation from a member of Arnisdale and Glenelg Village Halls, who have recently converted their organisation to a SCIO, and from someone knowledgeable in the local area regarding governance to explain the benefits of a SCIO as opposed to the Hall’s existing position as an Unincorporated Charity. It would also give the Community the opportunity to ask questions. The meeting date will be arranged once it is clear when speakers would be available.

8. Hall Maintenance; Jackie has arranged for a member of the community to cost the changing of the existing Hall Lighting to LED lighting. A local electrician has confirmed that he can upgrade the consumer units as recommended by the solar installation company AES.

9.Hall Equipment; It would be useful to have shelving for storage in the left- hand cupboard of the meeting unit. This cupboard presently has no shelving. Ellanne will source a local joiner who might be prepared to carry out the work.

10.Repair Café; 14 people attended the café and 9 repairs were carried out. The repair aspect of the café took £116 in donations, and the café raised £ 53.50 which will go towards Hall funds. Raising the profile of the cafe was discussed. Jackie will speak to the WHFP to see whether they might be interested in doing an article on the Repair Café and its objectives.

11.Fundraising; There have been just over 80 pre orders for the Hall Calendar and this means that the calendar will generate funds for the Hall. Mhairi will ask some of the people living in Strome who are not on the Community Whatsapp group whether they would like a calendar before they go on general sale.

12. Let’s Do Net Zero; The PV panels and batteries are scheduled to be installed sometime in mid November. Mhairi needs to contact Zurich Insurance prior to the work commencing. The Hall is still waiting for planning permission for the ASHP.

13.New Business; at the meeting with Jo from SLCVO, she indicated that additional employer’s insurance is required to cover volunteers at any events at the Hall. Mhairi asked Zurich to add this to the Hall Insurance prior to the Repair Café. Additionally Jo indicated that any cleaners need to have their own Public Liability Insurance. Fortunately one of the existing cleaners does have this Insurance. It was agreed that if possible, they should be employed for 2 hours a week and also have a pay rise. It was suggested that part of their role should be the ordering of paper towels etc. from Highland Council. Sue is happy to do this if the cleaner is not agreeable. Some supplies have already run out so Jackie will contact Highland Council to rectify this in the first instance.

14. Correspondence; an email was received from awards for all to say that the application for funding for the Hall Doors had been unsuccessful. An email was received from a local electrician indicating that he can upgrade the consumer units.(see Hall Maintenance ). Jo Ford has sent a draft copy of a SCIO constitution for the Hall.

15. Task List; The Task List was carried forwards from August’s Meeting.Tasks 1,2,5,6,9,11 and 12 have been completed. Task 4 has been completed on the Long Term Task List.Task 5 has been removed from the Long Term Task List.

16. AOCB; Funding application from CARES has changed so a Deed of Variation will be issued to Jackie and Mhairi to sign. A local electrician will PAT test the Hall electrical equipment on Wednesday 9th October. Mhairi will ask Lottery funding why our application was unsuccessful. Jackie has submitted the Cairngorm quote for new doors to Ward 6 for a contribution for funding.

At the end of the meeting Renee Gibson indicated that she now intends to retire from the Hall Committee. Renee has been a member of the Hall Committee for over 13 years. She will be greatly missed by the Hall Committee.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**The date of the next meeting Wednesday 6th November at 7pm.**