**ACHMORE COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of meeting Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7pm**

1. Present; Jackie Parsons, Marion Howat, Mhairi MacRae, Renee Gibson, Sue Waddell, Kate Bulloch.

2. Apologies;Patti Heavyside, Jim Coomber, Ellanne Fraser.

3.Approval of March Minutes; The minutes were approved by Jackie and seconded by Renee.

4.Treasurers Report; Detailed Accounts for 2023 with all Hall Transactions have now been uploaded to the Stromeferry and Achmore Website. The balance in the Hall Bank Account as of today is £13,179.85.

5.Booking Secretaries Report; The Science Skills Academy ran for the past two weeks. The organisers were very happy with the Hall as a venue and subject to them receiving funding, are likely to book the Hall again next year. Jackie asked Mhairi to send an invoice for this year’s event.

6. 100 Club; 1st Prize Louise Connolly £25

2nd Prize Amanda Doran £15

3rd Prize Karen Irving £10

Matters Arising; There were no matters arising.

7. Hall Maintenance; The situation for the quotes for the back doors is ongoing as follows-

a) First quote- A further site visit was carried out by a local tradesman to assess an issue with the door threshold and the Hall is waiting for a new quote to be issued.

b) Second quote-this has been received from the Cairngorm Group.

c) Third quote – measurements have been taken by a local tradesman and the quote will be submitted imminently.

A fourth local tradesman was approached but did not submit a quote.

8.Hall Equipment; Jackie has purchased a kettle, two teapots, two cooking pots, a knife block, a roasting tin and a flat paella style pan. The total for this equipment was £399. Tables and chairs are still to be purchased. Jackie will discuss with Ellanne the best format for the tables for planned events like Whist Evenings.

9. Repair Café; The date for this event was moved from the 24th May to the 26th May to accommodate the repairers. Sue can still assist with catering on this date which will consist of soup, sandwiches and baking. The proceeds from the catering will go to Hall Funds. Mhairi will organise a float for the event. Pricing will be agreed at the May Meeting.

10. Fundraising; The whatsapp message to the community group requesting photos for a fundraising calendar was well received however no photos have been submitted yet. It was agreed it would be better to approach people directly.

Marion suggested a “Guess the Baby “competition and it was agreed that this would be an excellent fundraising activity as part of a future Hall Event.

Jackie suggested contacting the Highland Council Discretionary Award for assistance eg.towards the payment for the new external doors. Mhairi mentioned that at a recent Community Council Meeting, Biz Campbell, Local Councillor, had indicated that the money available from this award has been greatly reduced. Mhairi agreed to approach Kirsty Ellen, the Community Support Worker, to see if the Hall could receive any funding from this award.

11. Let’s Do Net Zero; The Hall presently only have one quote for an Air Sourced Heat Pump. Jackie has approached R.I.Cruden for a further quote. CARES want to see more than one quote or attempts to receive quotes as part of the application for funding.

The committee confirmed that they are happy with Jackie to continue with the application to CARES for funding.

The company who quoted for the Air Sourced Heat Pump indicated that an upgrade to the Hall windows would improve the efficiency of the Heat Pump.

CARES funding does not cover windows and doors, but an application can be made for an SME (Scottish Small and Medium Sized Enterprises) Grant for 75% of costs. Jackie has received one quote so far for replacement windows from the Cairngorm Group but the payback period (calculated by dividing the 25% repayable by the annual cost savings) is out with the loan criteria of 20 years or less. Marion noted that the energy savings in the report were based on double glazing whereas the quote was for triple glazing. This might have an influence on the payback period. Jackie agreed to investigate this and to obtain further quotes including for double glazing which would bring the cost down also potentially influencing the payback period. It was agreed that some of the windows should be opening windows. There was also discussion around the fact that the Cairngorm Group quote was for windows without astragal bars which would change the aesthetics of the gallery. Marion highlighted that another energy saving could be made by making better use of the blinds particularly in winter.

Mhairi asked whether doors and windows would come under the category of non- renewable energy savings and Jackie confirmed this was the case. Mhairi also asked whether PV panels required planning consent. Jackie confirmed that planning consent was not required however permission was required from the grid and this would be obtained by the contractor.

One of the contractors quoting for PV panels suggested that the trees at the front of the Hall be cut back to prevent shading of the panels which will be placed on the Hall roof facing the East and the West. Jackie has obtained a quote from Skye Tree Surgeons for the large cherry tree(to the right when facing the Hall ) to be cut down and the tree to the left of the door as you face it to be cut back. It would cost £500 plus vat. There were discussions around the need to cut down the tree completely as opposed to carrying out trimming. These included the tree causing issues with drainage, potential damage to the founds of the extension, blockage to guttering in the summer, and impingement of the BT line. At the end of the discussions, it was agreed that the tree be removed with the timber being offered to local woodworkers in the first instance. Potential for further advertising would be via whatsapp and Facebook.

12. New Business; There is no further information re the situation with the Hall’s Contract with CMNet for internet provision.

There was a problem with the internet on the First Day of the Skills Academy which CMNet were able to resolve. To prevent this from happening in the future CMNet have asked if they can be told in advance when a big event is happening at the Hall. They have also asked if a member of the Hall Committee can check the internet is working the day before any special event (eg The Repair Café). CMNet are presently unable to remotely check the internet is working due to the Hall’s additional security measure of switching off the internet. They also require 24/7 access to CMNet’s equipment in the Hall. The door to the meeting room had been locked delaying their ability to address the fault.

13.Task List: The following items have been completed on the short term list-1,3, and 6. The following are ongoing - 2,4,5 and 7. The following items are ongoing on the long term list 1-6 and 8,9 and 10. 7 has been moved to the short term list.

14, Correspondence; Quotation received from AES for PV panels.

CMNet – see above,

From the Auditor with checked accounts.

Extra cleaning request from Hall Cleaner following Science Skills Events.

16. AOCB; The Community Council would like to move their meeting night from the last Wednesday of the month to the last Tuesday of the month. Another Group use the Hall on a Tuesday. They have been approached by a member of the Community Council and are happy for the Community Council to move their meeting day. There may still be occasions when the Community Council meet on a Wednesday for larger meetings when the main hall will be required.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st May at 7pm.**