

## Minutes ENCOMM Management meeting 20 January 2022 at Fornightly Hall at 6.30pm

In attendance Linda Henderson – Chair(LAH), Peter Arris –Treasurer(PA) ,Martine Scott (MS), Brian Mountjoy (BM) Aileen Asher Smith (AAS)

Apologies - Oliver Stone

1. Minutes of 21 October 2021 agreed.
2. Matters arising.
  - a) LH briefly covered the Lethen/Fred Olsen application which has just gone to Planning. It is hoped that cash for each community will be forthcoming along similar lines to Tom nan Clach. Tom nan Clach themselves are currently preparing to apply for an extension and PA and BM had attended a consultation exhibition which seemed to indicate similar arrangements.
  - b) The Fornightly Hall project had submitted a copy of their latest activities and fund raising efforts( attached to these minutes). A preferred tender had been selected and the funding shortfall is around £148k but several applications to other funders are in hand. The Trustees were delighted with their progress. Ali Ayres had mentioned possibly putting in a public car charging point and the Trustees see this as a separate proposal.
3. Chair Report – little to say except that 19 potentially missed addresses had been identified in the IV12 5LA and IV12 5LB postcodes had been identified. LH had sent out the November newsletter to these with a covering apology. It was agreed that BM should notify LH of any new addresses coming in as members or grant applicants so that the address spreadsheet can be cross-checked.
4. Treasurer Report – The BoS account currently stands at £89452 and we are now being charged £7 per month fees. The EQ investment at today's date stands at £262k on the principal fund and £15406 on the additional. This had fallen from promising highs in the Autumn but there is the usual winter fall exacerbated by the energy cost crisis and events in Ukraine. The accounts and OSCR report have been prepared and it was agreed to accept and put forward to the AGM. Changes at the Auditors, Ritson Young, were discussed. It was decided to stay with them at present while keeping a watching brief on the Chartered status.
5. The AGM is set for Thursday 17 March 2022 with every hope that it can be a face-to-face meeting in the Hall. It was agreed that the meeting will be for members only as registered 14 days ahead. Start time is 6.30 for refreshments ahead of a 7pm start.  
BM – will send out a "note for diary" email to members now  
LH - will review the Constitution and send round any proposed changes together with a calendar for actions ahead of AGM. She will book the Hall.  
  
It was agreed to separate the AGM from a public engagement event and the Trustees agreed the idea that we take a table at the Fornightly Spring Fayre to establish our presence.
6. Website and membership – BM is going to rebuild and tidy up the website. MS suggested that she be a second admin so that we are never in a position of being unable to access the site. The hosting renewal is due at £119.88 & agreed to be paid.  
Membership stands at 58.
7. AOCB – PA had checked the woodland at Belivat that had been planted with grant aid in 2020 and all looked fine.
8. The next meeting will be TUESDAY 22 February 2022 at the Hall at 6pm.

Attachment:

## **Fornightly Hall Update for ENCOMM, 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022**

### **Tendering Process**

Two tenders were received on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Both tender costs were closely grouped.

Scott Johnstone Joinery                      £186,536.09 +VAT

Darroch & Allan                      £198,490.16 +VAT

Glyn Young compared the tenders and provided a report on the tendering process which I have forwarded on to ENCOMM for review.

Our preferred contractor is Scott Johnstone, he made a good impression with his attention to detail and overall attitude to the project. His costs are also the lower of the two quotes.

Total cost of the project now stands at £223,843 making our Funding Gap £148,843.

### **Timeline**

The committee will aim for a project start date of end of July 2022. This should give us time to gather enough funds to proceed with the full plans and is a realistic start date due to current builder commitments. The works will take 24 weeks to complete and therefore we need to ensure we have enough funding to tide us over this period.

Anticipating that cost for 2022 are similar to 2021, we have covered our costs for this period already.

### **Funding**

Scotland Love Local Fund II replied on 12<sup>th</sup> November to say that the application for funding was unsuccessful due to the fund being heavily oversubscribed.

Other applications made to:

Davidson Trust on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan for £148,843, we expect a decision mid-February.

Berry Burn Community Fund on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 for £148,843, award meeting 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

SSE Sustainable Development Fund on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 22 for £30,864

The focus on the SSE fund was for Net Zero Future so we applied for the Heating, lighting, and glazed windows, which will be replacing the single glazed ones where the windows are irreparable.

Highland Council Discretionary Fund for £10,000 – application in progress

Lottery Fund – we are only able to apply for funding under the 'Awards for All' section which is a maximum of £10,000. The funder said that the project would not be considered unless it already showed it had 60-70% funding already secured. Therefore, we will apply for this at a later stage.

The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation – £25,000 application next in line

We will also write to RES (Cairn Duhie wind farm), Fred Olsen (Lethen wind farm) and Breedon group (Remore quarry) to ask if they would consider contributing.

Peter Samuel Trust – application entry 30<sup>th</sup> June

## **Events**

Pilates is continuing its 3<sup>rd</sup> block.

Table Tennis has resumed after the Christmas break.

The wildlife group held an evening talk on Bird Flight, given by local enthusiast Jack Harrison

Dan Puppelt's night walk/talk was fully booked

The Christmas Fundraiser was a big success with 5 local artisans booking craft tables. We had 96 people attend the event during the day and we raised a total of £1,162 for the hall funds. We received a lot of positive comments during the event, and have now 3 more members joined the Table tennis and 1 joined the Pilates class.

We postponed the Mandala event due to the spike in the COVID cases.

The Fornightly Wildlife Group carried some wildlife monitoring over the Christmas holidays at Auldearn school grounds at the request of the Headteacher. Our younger members gave a talk about their findings to the school assembly. In addition, the litter pickers were used to collect rubbish blown into the corners of the school grounds and also completed a beach clean in Nairn.

## **Future events planned are:**

Now that the cases of COVID are dropping, we are starting to plan dates for our events again.

In the pipeline we have the following plans:

Community litter pick, Spring fair, Community Café, Lichen Walk, Enjoyaball session, Wildlife Camera tracking, Bird song walk, monthly craft sessions.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Hall to be used as a polling station

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Wildwood Jack two piece band

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Hire of hall for local wedding

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Steve Jinski solo Scottish tour summer 2022 (decided to delay start of works until after this date)

## **Other**

Hall now listed on HallsHire website.

Maggie and Ali are visiting Rafford village hall at end of Jan and chatting to their committee.

The Fornightly Hall Business Plan is still being worked on.

The Hall Committee plans to plant a tree outside the hall to remember Ewan Brodie.