

# Glenmoriston Millennium Hall Management Committee

## Minutes of Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

**Present:** Clare Levings (Chair), Agnes Bell, Cherry Duncan, Jean Plater, Patrick Ungless, Robert Ungless, Catherine Thomson, Christine MacDonald, Jon Smith, Lynne West, Debbie Cox, Phil Mansell and Carol Pritchard.

**Also present:** Jeff Dymond from Community Council and several community members

1. **Apologies:** Hugh Watt.

2. **Minutes of Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Proposed by Jean and seconded by Agnes

3. **Matters Arising**

a. **External works** - Jon and Robert need to meet quite quickly. Also look at tree branches. Carry forward.

b. **Assistance with caretaker role** - Jon has spoken to someone - not sure whether he will take on the role. Jon does not have a leaving date yet. Carry forward

c. **Compliance**

a. Booking form signed off last time. Robert to email a PDF to Cherry so can start using it. Will also ask existing groups to sign up to the new one so covered for insurance purposes.

b. Robert will prepare house rules document and exit checklist for next time - include where to find light switches.

c. Prepare document of hall layout preferences - enhances fire safety.

d. **Funding for films/quiz** - have put in application. Not had feedback.

Committee meets 24<sup>th</sup> September. Next film 28<sup>th</sup> September. Next quiz 5<sup>th</sup> October.

- e. **Disposal of old chairs** - old grey ones will go to Memorial Hall in Fort Augustus. Waiting for Deirdre to confirm collection arrangements.

#### 4. **Public Toilets**

Pat outlined some of the background. We started the process of trying to renew/renege the agreement with THC in May 2017 as the previous summer had been difficult with the tank having to be emptied a lot and issues with the soakaway. The agreement expired in May 2019. THC recognised the need to replace the drainage system. About a year ago THC withdrew the agreement to replace the drainage system and undertook a survey of all Highland public toilets.

At the hall meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July Margaret Davidson (MD) attended and offered a compromise, in that if the hall could open the toilets now THC would fund a feasibility and design study. This did not address what would happen long term but if the study takes place we are further forward and can think about how to fund it. The outcome of the meeting was that MD would arrange for an engineer to report on what was required to open the toilets. We heard nothing until 31<sup>st</sup> July when MD emailed Clare to say the pumps were worn out.

On 4<sup>th</sup> August MD sent a copy of the draft terms of agreement that we had seen, and rejected, in January 2019.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August the committee met again to discuss what we needed to be reassured about it. We requested a copy of the engineer's report so that we could see the recommendations. There was no reply.

14<sup>th</sup> August - Pat wrote to Andy Summers (AS) and asked for the report. AS said he would ask for it and ring Pat that day. AS rang Pat at the end of the next week to say that there was no report but that "Joe" had based his assessment on a survey done in 2018.

The drainage system is not going to cope if the toilets are reopened to the public. The hall committee needs a route map of how it is to be managed short term and longer term. AS said he understood the situation better after speaking to Pat.

At the Community Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> August MD said THC had agreed to empty the tank weekly. Pat had not heard that from AS.

Pat wrote to AS after the CC meeting to set out the hall proposals for reopening on a short-term basis. We needed some assurances in writing:

- THC to fund and initiate the feasibility study and provide the timetable. Do they have funding for the following work?
- Agree frequency of emptying septic tank. Did not specify weekly but said it tends to fill in 3 days and if want to reduce the soakaway level by 50% it would need to be emptied weekly.
- What would happen after the study was completed? Do not want the hall to be obligated to take it further.
- Time limit of opening, say to end December. If no plan in place by then would close again.
- That THC would take over the cleaning again
- Hours of opening - regime in place was 7.00 am to 9.00 pm in summer and the cleaner closed and opened. In April THC said that there would be a flying squad of cleaners and all toilets to be opened 24/7. This causes an issue in relation to security of the building, risks of fire, breakages, mis-use by campers etc. Asked that THC take responsibility for 100% of such costs.
- Asked that THC contribute to cost of heat and electricity in same proportion as had in previous agreement
- Asked that THC pay 100% of the repair to pumps instead of 75%.

No reply from AS yet.

Questions were asked by the community:

- Could there be a key box or time-based electronic locking?
- Could the previous cleaner be employed by the hall?
- An email had been sent by MD to the people running the Glen Rowan café saying that THC had offered to empty the septic tank on a regular basis.

- Queries about why AS not present and about what has and has not been said by THC/MD to the hall committee.
- Could there be portaloos in the car park
- Comments on the need to have toilets available and the behaviour of the public in the absence of them - impact on the community
- Third option if a group in the community get together and access funding that is available in the area to reopen the toilets
- Should the community lobby THC and MD? Yes.
- Tourism is important to the area and brings in money to support businesses.

## 5. Secretary's Report 8<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Local clubs - Craft Club and 2 x Scottish Dance

Private lets -Beavers x 2, Glenmoriston Deer group

Commercial - SNP branch meeting

Free -Ceilidh night, Kirk x 2, Quiz night, Kate Forbes, Film meeting, Ceilidh dancing, Community Council and cream teas.

Functions - 2 x birthday parties

We had a fundraising summer for the hall and held 13 afternoon cream teas which were very successful. There were 6 nights of ceilidh dancing which were not as successful - details in the treasurer's report. Most clubs start again this week. Elaine Minshull is starting yoga on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, initially for 4 weeks to see how many are interested.

Zumba will start again on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and there will be a Quiz night on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

We are planning another Social Event for November. Details will be announced shortly. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September we are catering for canoeists. Help is required for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in the evening and on Saturday morning and afternoon. If you can help please contact Carol.

## 6. Caretakers Report

Erik's bill for work done on the pumps in May was £1,120. Asking him to clarify the date of the work. The pumps are working at present despite the rain. Heating thermostat is working in the meeting room. Jon was asked to take the lock off the meeting room thermostat.

## 7. Treasurer's Report - circulated at the meeting and attached.

The 6 weeks of cream teas raised £1,001.10 less expenses of £165. Lots of people helped. It was on for 2 hours each day over 6 weeks.

Ran a bar at the ceilidhs - hard to get licences. People attended at only 5 out of the 6 events. Income was £366 and expenses £273 but do have some bar stock left over.

## 8. Fundraising

- a. The 9 November event will provide catering. Carol, Debbie and Catherine offered to help and a meeting will be arranged to discuss details. Robert will do tickets and publicity.
- b. Canoeists on 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- c. Should we have Bingo Nights?

## 9. Any Other Business

- a. Should there be a bar at the Quiz? Decided to continue to sell soft drinks and people can bring their own. Will review again in due course.
- b. All members of Senior Citizens committee resigned and no-one else in place yet. Derek, Audrey and Stella are interested and it is hoped activities will be resumed when Julie and Mark are back at the end of the month.

- c. Robert will produce a “What’s On” again as we have dates for events now.
- d. Pat asked that the Quiz organisers let him have the funds and paperwork as soon as possible.
- e. The AGM will be on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **10. Date of the Next Meeting**

**The next meeting will take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8 p.m.**