

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 18 July 2024

1. **Attendance:-** Donald MacNeill (Chair), Lynda Syed (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon Macinnes, Adele Sinclair, Carol Watt, Peter Hogbin, Ann Dodd, and Ronnie Dodd.
2. **Apologies:-** Naline Swailes, Mark Boston.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:-** Approved. Proposed by Sharon Macinnes and seconded by Adele Sinclair.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:-** Dealt with as relevant agenda items arose during the meeting,
5. **Treasurer's report:-** The current balance is £20,048.14 of which ring fenced amounts are:- Shop and Bungalow - £12,048.14, An Suidhe Grant not yet spent - £195 and Supporting Communities Grant not yet spent - £350. Unrestricted amount - £8,132.62.
Receipts:- £2,408.75 from the Hydro Scheme. It was agreed that this money should be used to buy lights for the Christmas tree and replace some of those on the outside of the Hall which aren't working.
Expenditure:- Interim payment for work on the Shop and Bungalow - £6,000 and £1,000 for the insurance of these buildings.
Lynda was thanked for sorting out the insurance for the shop and bungalow - a time consuming and complicated task.
The invoice for the electrical work has not been received yet and Carol will follow this up with Alastair Mirrlees.
6. **Shop and Bungalow:-** There was some discussion about whether the gravel in front of the Shop should be replaced with tarmac to link smoothly with the recently tarmac area outside the Hall. A quote for this work is for £15,000. Paying for this would require a combination of getting a grant and using a considerable amount of the money which is ring fenced for work on the Shop and Bungalow. Views were mixed and no decision was taken. **This matter will be discussed again at a future meeting when applications to the An Suidhe Windfarm Community Grant Funds are prioritised.**
7. **Events:-** We will have to decide on another date for the BBQ which had been planned for Saturday 3 August as David and Cindy have agreed to prepare the food but will not be available on that date. Given

the dates when the Hall is available, the best date will be Saturday 21 September. The start time will be 2pm, clearing up at 5pm and then Bingo. Donald suggested that we should provide something for children which parents don't have to pay for and it was agreed to have goodie bags. Lynda suggested that the Coop might be willing to provide these if we make a good case. Ronnie suggested having a treasure hunt as these have been successful.

David and Cindy will look after the BBQ and getting the food.

Other tasks will be covered by the following volunteers:-

Lynda - publicity and posters, asking for contributions for the bottle stall and asking those who wish to set up a stall. She will also ask the Coop to provide goodie bags for the children.

Carol - will cover the bar and Andy the bottle stall.

Ann and Ronnie will be available to help as needed.

Progress can be checked by email and finalised at the next meeting on 19 September - 2 days before the BBQ.

8. Suggestions for Applications to the An Suidhe Windfarm Community Grant Fund (next deadline for applications will be 7 October) :-

Seating in the Bar needs to be replaced and the layout replanned to make better use of the space. **It was agreed that the Bar**

Committee (Donald, Sharon and Nadine) would decide on and cost the best option so that details would be available in time for Lynda to prepare the application.

Other applications may also be made depending on the cost of re-furnishing the Bar.

9. Information Welcome Pack for new residents:- Andy gave an update on progress since the last meeting. Sharon was contacted by the Headmaster of Lochgilphead High School before the end of term to say that 3 pupils were interested in learning more about the project. Andy went to the school to meet them and give them more information and one pupil wants to take it on. He is impressive and has already given some thought to the project and has come up with some ideas. Sharon and Andy will meet him on Monday 22 July in Furnace Shop to agree in more detail what we are looking for and what his ideas are. SCIO members put forward some suggestions which will be helpful. In addition to providing new residents with useful information, the main purpose of this project is to help new residents to feel welcome in Furnace.

Sharon and Andy will keep the SCIO informed of progress and will submit an application to Furnace Community Council for a Micro Grant to cover the costs of this project.

It should be noted that Peter Hogbin, as he had offered at the May meeting, had contacted The Mid-Argyll Youth Development about getting involved in the this project. Andy apologised for not telling Peter in good time about the Lochgilphead High School pupil coming forward.

10. AOCB:-

1. Electricity Contract - Donald and Lynda have been looking at our current electricity contract which runs out at the end of July. There are 2 tariffs, one for weekdays and a cheaper one for weekends. They are trying to sort out how to get the best deal.

2. Memorial Garden - Donald thanked Ann and Ronnie for the work, and time, that they have put into getting the Memorial Garden back in good condition and to be a garden that will require a more feasible amount of maintenance. The difference is very significant and is very much appreciated. Ann expressed her gratitude to Donald for disposing of the considerable amount of garden refuse which had been dug out and pruned back.

3. Cycle Path from Lochgilphead to Inveraray - Peter gave an update on some of the progress being made on this project which Lochgilphead Community Council is planning. A surveyor has looked at possible sitings for the path from Furnace to Inveraray and has ruled out using part of the Leacainn Walk which is more problematic than the other side of the river. There will be issues such as right of way but this should not involve the SCIO as we have already said that although it is an interesting project we will not be able to get involved.

4. Website - Lynda noted that the website needs to updated and the sections that are out of date should be removed. **Lynda offered to check and decide on what should be removed.**

5. Constitution - OSCR has now formally approved the amendments to our Constitution (we wanted to add 3 postcodes which had mistakenly been omitted from our original Constitution.) Ruth has offered to put the updated copy onto the website.

11. Date of AGM and next meeting:- The next meeting will be on Thursday 19 September and the AGM will be on Thursday 21 November.
