

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 19 September 2024

- 1. Attendance** Donald MacNeill (Chair), Lynda Syed (Treasurer). Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Adele Sinclair, Carol Watt. Anne Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Peter Hogbin, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar.
- 2. Apologies** Naline Swailes, Mark Boston.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting** Approved. Proposed by Carol Watt and seconded by Ann Dodd.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes** **Electricity cost** - Donald has noted that SSE has been running 2 different accounts for us and he has arranged that from 4 September there will be 1 account which will be easier for us to estimate. Within the next few weeks we should receive a refund of around £1,300.

Memorial garden - Ann has found that quite a lot of the mortar is crumbling and **she suggested asking the Community Council for a micro grant to contribute to the cost which has still to be estimated.**
- 5. Treasurer's report** Bank total : £21,739.03 Cash: £90.58
The bank total is made up as follows;- Supporting Communities Fund - £372.98 (restricted); An Suidhe Windfarm Grant - £196.85 (restricted); Shop and Bungalow - £13,564.14 (designated); unrestricted funds - £7,605.06.

Notes: 1. £250 received from the Coop for BBQ and/or Christmas lights switch on. 2. £501 spent on new boiler. 3. £476 +VAT owed for electrical work on Shop and Bungalow. £442 + VAT quoted for repairs required to reach certificate standard. £2,400 + VAT quoted for replacing lights with LED. Total costs agreed to come from shop and bungalow designated pool - £3,318 + VAT. 4. Last year's audited accounts to be signed off by Chair and Treasurer.
- 6. Shop and Bungalow** electricity work to be completed and paid up to date, as detailed in the treasurer's report above.
- 7. Events - including finalising arrangements for BBQ on 21 September** all is organised - 8 stalls including bottle stall, Naline is preparing the goodie bags for children, David, Lynda and Jack are doing the BBQ and Carol, Donald and Naline will staff the Bar.

8. Decision about helping to fund the proposed cycle track David Bowen of Lochgilphead Community Council has been in touch again about having part of a cycling track from Lochgilphead to Inveraray on part of the west side of the Leacainn Walk and wants us to help to raise £12,000 for construction and repairs to the Walk. Prior to this meeting Andy had circulated copies of emails exchanged and the appraisal which had been carried out for David Bowen.

It was agreed that we already had too many financial commitments to get involved, we felt that we had been given very little information and we were also concerned about safety aspects of cyclists using a walking path. In addition, we felt that landowners consent would be required. **Andy is to let David Bowen know what we have decided.**

9. Applications to the An Suidhe Windfarm Community Grant Fund

It was agreed that we needed new tables and chairs for the Bar and Donald had been exploring what will work best and the costs. **It was agreed that the Social Club Committee would make the decision and try to get 3 quotes. Lynda thought that there wouldn't be enough time to get a grant application submitted by the closing date of 6 October and so this application will be made for the March 2025 closing date.**

The issue of resurfacing the area in front of the Shop was raised and the pros and cons of the options of monoblock, tarmac and gravel were discussed. Monoblock is very expensive - a quote of £15,000 has been received and it may not be appropriate for an area where heavy vehicles are parking: access to the drainage can be problematic for both monoblock and tarmac and maintaining the gravel surface may be the best option. (NB. Louise and Kenneth recommended 'Wet and Forget' for weeds and mould)

It was agreed that chipping, with edging, would be the best option and Lynda was asked to discuss this David as his preference was for monoblock.

10. Everything Furnace website - copyright issues

An email from Copytrack, a company in Berlin claiming to be acting on behalf of a client whose photograph had been included on the Everything Furnace website, had arrived in the Community Council's email and had been forwarded to the SCIO. It asked for payment to compensate for breach of copyright. The photo was said to have been posted in April 2021 and Copytrack was contacted by their client in April 2024. Their email was dated 4 September 2024 and they demanded payment by 14 September - this attempt to generate panic has the appearance of a scam. Googling Copytrack results in many concerns about this company and accusations of scamming.

Following our discussion it was agreed that we should ignore this email and not take any action unless Copytrack made further contact and if so, further discussion might be needed.

Lynda pointed out that in general it was important to adhere to copyright rules and pay writers, photographers and artists what they are due and that we should be aware of that principal in future where there could be legitimate claims. This has been a lesson for the future but as our website is for information and is not profit making, we should take care not to publish anything that we do not own.

11. Information for new residents The leaflet welcoming new residents has been completed, printed and already given to 2 new residents. Sharon and Andy had taken this on when no-one responded to our request for volunteers. As a result of Sharon contacting the Head Teacher of Lochgilphead High School we were put in touch with Benjamin McEwan, a senior pupil with a strong interest in graphic design. Copies of the leaflet were circulated and generally liked. The costs involved were covered by a Micro Grant from the Community Council.

12. AOCB 1. Benches for the garden - Ronnie and Ann's daughter has 6 cast iron ends for benches which she would give to us if we want them. **They will need the wooden slats and Ronnie will get an estimate of the cost.**

2. Christmas lights - Money from the Hydro Scheme could cover any new and replacement lights needed. **Sharon and Donald will check the existing lights on the Hall and the Christmas tree lights and advise on what should buy.**

3. Handrail along part of the path down to Queen Elizabeth Cottages - Sharon mentioned that it would be important to have a handrail along part of the tarmac path which is steep and particularly scary for older residents when the path is icy. In addition to the handrail a sandbox in that area would be useful. **This will raised initially with the Community Council as it may that Mid- Argyll Council or ACHA should be asked to install a handrail.**

4. Glass washer for the bar - Donald mentioned the the glass washer has a fault which is triggered regularly but it would cost about £200 to have it looked at and a replacement would cost about £2,000.

It was felt that it hasn't been used properly and it was agreed not to replace it.

13. Date of AGM and next meeting Thursday 21 November 2024