

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2024

- 1. Attendance:-** Donald MacNeill (Chair), Lynda Syed (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Adele Sinclair, Naline Swailes, Carol Watt, Ann Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Peter Hogbin, Louise MacKellar, Kenneth MacKellar.
- 2. Apologies:-** Mark Boston, Edith MacKellar.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting:-** Approved. Proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Ann Dodd.
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes:-**
 - Electricity charges - Donald has been working on how our electricity is charged and he has tried to simplify the charges by changing from two meters to one, sending in a photograph of the meter reading and doing a detailed check. Before the June bill was sent out we had a refund of £1362 and we currently £850 in credit. Lynda wants to make sure that she keeps on top of the charges and that we don't get into debt. The direct debit has been cancelled and we will be invoiced when we are out of credit. At that stage we can sort it out for the future. Ronnie thanked Donald on our behalf for the time and effort he has spent trying to make sense of the charges.
 - Handrail for the shortcut to Queen Elizabeth Cottages - The Community Council has asked the Council about this but have not had a helpful response so far. It may be that the SCIO will have to take this on. It was noted that when the street lights were installed on this path that the Community Council paid for the installation and the Council agreed to link them to the street lighting system. Lynda suggested that we should find out how much it would cost to install a handrail and then she will check if we can pay for it. Peter suggested approaching Ewan Seator about the cost of galvanised steel.
 - Christmas lights - 50% - 60% are working and it had been hoped to check this on Saturday but the weather could be a problem.
- 5. Treasurer's report:-** Lynda had circulated a summary with the following details:- Cash in hand £124.67, Supporting Communities Fund (Climate Change) £372.98 (restricted), An Suidhe Windfarm Grant £13.36 (restricted), Shop and Bungalow £9,494.94 (designated), Bank Total £17,142.95. Unrestricted funds are £7,261.67.
Notes: £500 + is required for further electrical work for the shop (new board and earth wire).
The Climate Change balance has to be spent before the end of the calendar year. To meet this deadline Lynda will pay for trees which will be kept until we want them.
The work on the shop and bungalow should be completed soon and while remaining as designated funds, they will form part of the general reserve.

Issues arising - Andy suggested that we should review the cost per hour to hire the Hall as there seemed to be a considerable gap between the income and the expenses, such as - electricity, water, insurance etc. The trustees will meet before our next meeting on 16 January to discuss this further.

6. Shop and Bungalow:- covered within the Treasurer's report.

7. Events:- Turning on the Christmas Lights (6,30 pm on Friday 6 December). - Cindy will switch on the lights; the new lights have been ordered and will be paid for from £2,000 given to us by the Hydro Scheme); Martin will link up the lights; Ian McKenzie will get provide the tree; Karen will arrange a group singers to lead the carol singing; Lynda will do a poster and get the mulled wine and mince pies; Naline will get 20 selection bags for children and Lynda has some sweet treats to add to this; Sharon will ask Duncan Beaton to be Santa Claus. Anyone available to help to decorate the Hall should meet at 2 pm on Tuesday 3 December.

Donald suggested that we should have a permanent base for the Christmas Tree in future years and one that is not so tall.

8. Benches for the Hall Garden:- we owe thanks to Jennifer Dodd for her very generous donation of 8 cast iron bench ends and also to David Campbell for his work in using these to make 4 very lovely wooden benches. We have paid for the wood used and it was agreed to give him a £50 voucher from the Tree Shop as a token of our appreciation of his time and work. Lynda will get the cards and vouchers and send them to Jennifer and David.

9. An Suidhe Windfarm Community Fund:- The next date for applications will be in April 2025. We intend to apply for funding for new furniture for the Bar - Sharon and Donald will look at ideas and prices. Martin would like to have more elaborate Christmas Lights to be put on the lamp posts (as they have in Inveraray). Adding this to our application will depend on the cost and how much this would affect the total we would be applying for. There is also the need to have them taken down within a reasonable time.

10. AOCB:- Social Club - Naline, as Social Club Treasurer, reported on the financial position as at 28 October:- Bank Balance -£2,123; Cash £232. £1,000 will be transferred to the SCIO before Christmas. Sharon has applied for a licence for Christmas night and New Year's Eve.

Important Dates over the Christmas Period - Lynda will prepare and print sheets noting important dates, such as - Shop opening hours, GP opening hours, Bar opening hours, Refuse collection dates etc. It was agreed that the SCIO would pay for the paper and ink.

Other dates to note - Saturday 14 December_- Craft Day in the Hall - 14 tables booked.

The Furnace Ladies Christmas Lunch will be in the Hall on Wednesday 18 December, 12.30 pm for 1 pm. Alma and Ann are taking the bookings and money and thanks to David and Cindy for hosting and cooking.

Donation to the GP Surgery towards the new blood analysis machine - Ronnie suggested that we should donate £500 towards this machine that the Surgery has bought. A donation would acknowledge the Surgery is making to re-open the Furnace Surgery when the IT system is working properly. A significant amount of work and re-furnishing has already been done to make it possible to see patients in Furnace.

There was some discussion about the further information we would like before committing to a specific amount - this would include the cost of the machine and how and to whom a donation should be made. It was agreed that Ronnie would get the details and email them to Andy who would forward them to the trustees to make a decision.

Other information about the Surgery and the PPG (Patient Participation Group, for Furnace and Inveraray) - Sharon mentioned that Furnace Community Council has contributed £50 to the cost of setting up communication systems for the PPG and she wondered if Inveraray had also contributed.

The difference between PPG members and the Committee was clarified - The Committee has a maximum of 6 patients from both communities (at the publicised meetings which were held before the formation of the PPG, volunteers were invited to join the Committee) and members are those who signed up, and can sign up, and asked to be kept informed of matters of significance to us.

Peter is working on a website and email list for the PPG so that there can be an effective communication system with members.

11. Date of next meeting:- Thursday 16 January 2025