

FURNACE COMMUNITY SCIO

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2023

1. Present.

Phil Nilsson (Chair), Eva Paterson (Treasurer), Andy Henderson (Secretary), Sharon MacInnes, Adele Sinclair, Lynda Syed, Ann Dodd, Ronnie Dodd, Peter Hogbin.

2. Apologies.

Carol Watt, Mark Boston.

3. Minutes of last meeting.

Approved. Proposed by Sharon MacInnes and seconded by Phil Nilsson.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

- * Slates missing from the Bar roof - Sharon has a roofer coming to replace them on Friday
- * The Bar store cupboard now has a lock
- * The Social Club has a few more members than the 77 previously reported
- * The Bungalow steps have now been fixed by Martin

5. Treasurer's Report

The cash and bank balance is £26,381 with £17,500 ring fenced for any future work on the Shop and Bungalow and other known commitments.

6. Hall

- * Sharon will order the remaining blinds for the Hall
- * Ronnie now has the notice board which, as agreed, will be put up outside the Shop where the notices will be seen by more people than if the board was outside the Hall. It will be put up where David currently has his sign and Ronnie will need the help of one or more people. There will be 4 keys - 2 will be kept in the Shop, Sharon will have one and one will be kept behind the bar. David will arrange to get another board for the Shop.

7. Shop and Bungalow

- * A glass pane in the conservatory is broken and needs to be replaced, as does the front door of the conservatory. David has tracked down someone to replace it but this will not be done before January.
- * Phil has acquired details of the Building Repairs Standards which private landlords are required to comply with from 1 March 2024. He distributed a summary of the new measures which mainly focus on safety issues including:- safe kitchens, fixed heating systems, safe and secure common doors, electricity supply systems being in a reasonable state of repair and in proper working order - they must also include a residual current device (RCD) which will break the the circuit in the event of a fault. Martin could be asked to to check that all the conditions are complied with in the Shop, Bungalow and Hall.

If open fires and/or wood burners are used then an annual certificate to show that the chimneys have been swept is required.

8. Events

- * The postponed Shinty Cup Celebration will be on Friday 24 November.
- * The next Bingo Night will be now be on Friday 1 December.
- * It was agreed that without the use of the School Kitchen it would not be possible to have the 'Old Folks Christmas Dinner'
- * Thanks to David, Cindy and everyone involved in the Halloween Party on 28 October which was a great success.

9. Christmas Lights Switch On - 6.30 pm Saturday 9 December

- * The tree has been delivered -thanks to Iain MacKenzie - and Hamish, David and Donald will put it up on Saturday. Martin will do the lights.
- * Phil will do the welcome and the switching on of the lights.
- * Karen, Hazel and other members of the Church Choir will lead the carol singing (the first verses of 2 carols of their choice, followed by 'Jingle Bells' for the children.
- * Eva will prepare mulled wine which be available in the Hall.

10. Leacainn Walk Leaflet

- * Karen has sent Lynda the text of the previous leaflet but there is a problem taking photos in this weather. Phil, who is a photographer, will go around the walk and see what photos would be good to include. It is not certain at the moment when a new leaflet could be available.

11. An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund Grant

Lynda has been notified that her application for a grant of £8,600 to improve the space at the back of the Hall has been approved. The weather isn't conducive at the moment but the costs will increase the longer it takes to start. Lynda noted that Cookes had the winning bid. She noted that every penny of the WindFarm grant will have to be accounted for. It is not clear if the money has to be spent within 6 months or 1 year but she will follow this up. She asked for someone with good working knowledge of planting to help her to oversee the project. The other grant which has been obtained to improve the appearance of the Village could be combined to help with the cost of the planting. Lynda will agree a deadline with Cookes so that work can start before Easter.

Lynda was thanked for all the work she has done in submitting successful applications.

12. Social Club

Phil, Sharon and Eva will form a Committee to meet the requirements of the Constitution and manage the Bar and Club. They will meet twice a year and at other times if appropriate. The Licensing Board will be notified.

13. AOCB

- * **Minor changes to the Constitution needed** to include the 4 postcodes which were omitted in error. Andy is to check on what is involved.

* **Updating of the Furnace Website** (which belongs to the SCIO) - Phil has spoken with Ruth about this and she has given him access. The payment of the domain name is due on 8 December. Peter suggested that the payment should just be for 1 year initially until any changes to the format are made and then make the 5 year payment.

Phil considers that the website is important not just for the community but also for tourists but it needs to be modernised while not losing any of the current information. Phil will be meeting Ruth on Monday 4 December to discuss this. Lynda did the architecture of the website while Ruth designed the content. It is hosted through GoDaddy and built using Wordpress.

Lynda noted that as many people as possible need to have access to updating the site but since Covid it is increasingly difficult to get volunteers for any projects. Lynda also noted that the feed from the Facebook page to the website is very useful and should be retained.

* **Reviving the Film Nights in the Hall** - it was agreed that if the Screen Machine does not get the Government funding needed to continue that we should revive our Film Nights. There will be issues to sort such as the Film Licence, the glow of light from the heaters, sound issues etc and these will have to be discussed in more detail at a later date.

* **A welcoming information pack for new residents** - it was agreed that this would be helpful and we should talk to some recent newcomers about the content and discuss the detail further at a later date.

* **Dog fouling** - Peter noted that this is still an issue and particularly on the upper level of the Galloping Brae and he asked if we still have any signs that could be used. Sharon has some laminated notices that could be used. Phil added that there are also dog fouling problems in the park and picnic areas. Phil added that this is really a Community Council issue and suggested that the CC and SCIO could work together on this issue.

* **Cycle path from Lochgilphead to Inveraray** - Peter mentioned that David Bowen, of Lochgilphead has contacted the The Community Council about a proposed Cycle Path from Lochgilphead to Inveraray and he would like to discuss the part from Furnace to Auchindrain. Peter suggested that rather than ask David Bowen to a full meeting if the Community Council a meeting should be arranged with representatives of the Community Council and The SCIO. Phil agreed and said that the Cycle Path would help to promote the Village and he suggested having the meeting in January.

14. Date of next meeting - 7 pm Thursday 18 January 2024

When the Community Council and SCIO meetings are on the same night the Community Council has only one hour for their meeting and sometimes it is very difficult to have enough time to discuss all items on the agenda.

At the moment the Community Council meets on the last Thursday of every month and the SCIO on the 4th Thursday of alternate months and therefore when the 4th Thursday is also the last Thursday time problems can arise.

It was agreed that when there are 4 Thursdays in a month the SCIO meeting would be held on the 3rd Thursday and when there are 5 Thursdays in the month the SCIO would meet on the 4th Thursday. The SCIO meetings would now start at 7pm and not at 7.30 pm.