

FOCHABERS PUBLIC INSTITUTE COMMITTEE (FPIC)

Department Heads

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th September, 2016, 7.30pm, 29 High Street

PRESENT: Gordon Christie, Alan Brown, George Turnbull, Iain Rennie, Liz Rennie, Una Hamilton

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute was approved.

2. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

HALL MANAGEMENT: ALAN BROWN

- The current balance is £12,544.91.
The monthly income will be reduced during the time of the Hall closure.
- £700 remains in the old account which will now be closed.
- The accounts are ready for the auditor.
- The biomass boiler has been switched off but the solar panels remain in operation. No income has yet been received from the solar panels.
- The web site has been update to show actual bookings and is available to all.
- Bookings will be taken from the end of March 2017.
- The completion date for the refurbishment is the end of March 2017, with a contingency to 14th April.
- It was suggested that the official opening could be organised for Easter weekend (16th April, 2017) with events being planned to encourage people to come in to the Hall.
- A review of charges was discussed and it was agreed that Stewart would investigate charges made by other halls, in Moray and other authorities.
- Alan agreed to check on the frequency of coffee mornings.

PR: STEWART HARRIS

- There was good coverage of the refurbishment in the September issue of The Fochaberian.
- An application for £25,000 has been submitted to the Weir Foundation. Decisions will be made in November.
- Suggestions for the Eater Weekend celebrations include a concert on the Friday evening and a free ceilidh on the Saturday.

FUNDING: GORDON CHRISTIE

- It is estimated that £90,000 will be required for extras to complete the project.
- Another application for £15,000 has been submitted to EB.
- There will be funds available for local communities from the pipeline from Portgordon to Keith.

- Funds could also be available when work begins on the Boeing project at RAF Lossiemouth.
- The Co-op has accepted the Hall as a community partner. This will involve, among other things, a fund raising effort.
- Donald Cameron had suggested a fund raising coffee morning could be held in Bellie Church Hall.

The Project: Gordon Christie and George Turnbull

- Discussion was held on the costs for individual elements of the project.
- A meeting is planned with James Alexander and Bob Sharp to discuss requirements for the stage lighting and sound.
- A meeting about heating and lighting has been arranged for Thursday, 22nd.
- Gordon has received a quote for £2,500 to rebuild the wall at the front which was partly demolished by a car. As an alternative, Gordon suggested a pillar with an ornamental urn on top which is a much more reasonable price.

Fund Raising: Liz Rennie

Work is ongoing.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1st November, 7.30pm at 29, High Street.