

## FOCHABERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

### Minute of Meeting held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 at 52, High Street, Fochabers

**PRESENT:** Gordon Christie, Roddy Munro, Stewart Harris, Iain Rennie, George Turnbull, Una Hamilton

**APOLOGIES:** Sheila Gray, Jeremy Evans, Douglas Ross, Margo Howe, Sean Morton

Gordon welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

#### **1 CAT and £150,000**

Gordon thanked Stewart for the work he had done on the Business Plan which ran to 64 pages plus appendices.

The grant of £150,000 will be used for roof and building repairs and a new heating system and will be paid on completion of the work. Mark Palmer, Moray Council, indicated this was the most cost effective option.

The Village association will be required to pay legal fees.

The Directors agreed, unanimously, to proceed with the CAT.

The ground on which the wooden store stands is owned by The Crown Estates and Gordon will negotiate with them.

#### **2 BIOMASS BOILER**

The biomass boiler works by transferring heat through water, the heat coming from pellets. It is estimated that a 125KW boiler requires 4 loads per year. It is proposed to keep a constant background heat which will be boosted when the hall is in use.

Gordon explained that, over a 20 year period, the Village Association would get back £259,000.

The subsidy for the installation reduces by 25% on 1<sup>st</sup> July so Gordon, believing time is of the essence, has contacted a number of companies to receive quotes. This was imparted to the directors for discussion.

It was agreed, unanimously, to accept the quote, for a 125KW Etta Boiler, from VG Energy, Inverurie for the following reasons:

- It is a good quality boiler
- The company operates a good maintenance programme
- The boiler will be monitored remotely so that any problems will be identified quickly.

It is proposed to install the boiler as soon as possible, hooking it up to the existing pipes etc which will be replaced at a later date.

VG Energy also supply and install solar panels although some work would be required on the roof before they could be installed. A survey has been arranged for Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.00am. The Directors agreed to go ahead with this proposal.

There followed a discussion on the role of architects and quantity surveyors as to how would be best to proceed with the project.

### **3 VAT IMPLICATIONS**

VAT is very complicated but Johnson and Carmichael can provide advice.

The consensus of opinion was it would be better to register for VAT at the now, at the beginning of the project, but advice will be taken.

### **4 FUTURE ACTION**

#### The Big Lottery Fund- Growing Community Assets

This fund closes on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, however, thanks to Stewart, the application has been completed.

Stewart explained that, because of the shortage of time, an application has been made for £100,000 because of the amount of extra work involved in applying for more. Further applications can be made when the new fund opens in December, 2015.

#### Abbeyfield Fochabers Society Ltd.

A meeting with the Abbeyfield Committee to discuss the possibility of funding has been arranged.

#### The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation

Gordon is hoping to meet with representatives of the Foundation to discuss the possibility of funding for the new kitchen.

#### The Hall Committee

It is proposed that the committee should comprise the Directors plus the original committee members.

Sub committees will be formed to undertake different functions.

#### Organisation Chart

It was suggested that a chart indicating roles and responsibilities would be useful. Stewart will undertake this task.

#### Development Trust Association

It is proposed to seek provisional membership of the Association.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm