Ford Village Hall Committee

Meeting 15th Feb 2024

Minutes

Present: Bill Moran (Chair), Sue Creech (Treasurer), Joanna Cole (Secretary), Heather Moran,
Phil Hemmings, Gillian Rodger, Steve Walker, Andrea Healey, Jan Wright

Apologies:

1. **Welcome to new** members – Steve, Andrea, Gillian and Heather welcomed.
**Joanna** has taken details to add Steve and Andrea to the Companies House register (we are awaiting the ‘authentication code’ to be posted before this update can be made). Gillian and Heather are joining as non-executive Directors.
2. **Cost of hall hire, paying for electricity** – Sue advised that she is still waiting for communication from SSE regarding the latest bill. Discussion took place with various ideas being floated to improve the monitoring of the electricity. Further to decisions made in relation to Point 3, below, a number of actions will be held until the insurance has been reinstated. The actions are:
**Sue** will look into using the SSE app to help monitor readings, and she will investigate a coin/token operated meter.
**Steve** will donate a white board and pens to go in the hall to allow users to note their meter readings which they will then email to the village email address (fordvillagehallargyll@gmail.com)
**Gillian** will print and laminate a sign to remind users of their responsibilities to ensure they have turned off the heating and taken a meter reading.
The cost to rent the hall will go up to £12 an hour.
3. **The Hall building and Insurance** - It was agreed by all present that the hall will not be available for use until the electrics have been signed off and the insurance has been reinstated.
**Joanna** will contact Ederline Estate, the SWI and notify the village through facebook and the village notice board.
**Sue** will chase up the electrician for a quote and press ahead with trying to get the work done. The electrician will need to be made aware of the intention to fit 2 air-source heat pumps to the hall.
**Gillian** will explore public liability insurance for the use of the field for community events.
4. **Fundraising ideas** - Joanna and Sue gave an update on the Glassvar Windfarm proposal, having met with Gilbert Stevenson earlier in the day. There is potential for financial help from the project, and **Joanna** will contact Gilbert to ask for help to pay for the essential electrical work and air-source heat pumps.
 It was agreed that we should hold a community consultation day and use it to raise funds and engagement with the hall. This can be held in the spring/summer on the community land, once insurance has been arranged. Bill suggested that people living in the village could be encouraged to auction or raffle off their skills and time to raise funds for the hall. We will discuss ideas further at the next meeting.
Gillian advised that she is happy to donate funds from her coffee mornings towards the village hall, however has struggled to hold as many coffee mornings as she would have liked. Jan, Steve, Andrea and Heather offered to host additional coffee mornings.
**Steve** , **Andrea** and **Gillian** will have a go at completing a funding application for a project centric funding round being distributed by the Council, with help from various members of the village (Pete).
5. **National Park proposal** – Joannaattended the consultation and reported that while it was well attended locally, it seems not to have much support. It was agreed by all present that this is not a pressing matter. Should Loch Awe make it through to the next round of the proposal, we will invite the group to make a presentation to us.
6. **Dunadd Community Enterprise** – Joanna and Janattended the Community Resilience Plan consultation. It was not well attended, it is understood only one other resident attended. The plan involves helping the communities of Ford, Kilmartin, Slockavuillin and Kilmichael to ensure they are getting the most from local funding sources and local government to help the communities provide for all demographics.
**Joanna** will contact David Smart to ask him to come to our next meeting and discuss how his company ‘Glic’ and the Community Development Plan can help Ford with our Community Consultation Day and general funding and engagement needs.
7. **Community Garden** – Steve expressed an interest in establishing a community garden after sharing spoils from his garden with the village recently. Sue advised that Land Forestry Scotland will be selling a section of land spanning the area between the Church and the bus stop. She has registered an interest in the Community purchasing this section of land in order to turn it in to a community orchard.
**Sue** will keep members updated with any news from LFS regarding the purchase of the land
**Steve** and **Gillian** will meet again to discuss the forming of a local Gardening Club to establish enthusiasm for a community garden.
8. AOB

*The next meeting will be 20th March – date and location tbc*