

RCA AGM
Wednesday 24th March

Present – Steven Atkinson, Jed Cossar, Buffy Cracknell, Jinty Crocket, Fliss Fraser, Sally Mason, Kat Milligan, Ali Morris, Sean Morris, Alex Mumford, Lesley Watt

Apologies - Neil Boyd, Matthew Barley, Rebecca Barley

1. Chairperson report

Previous year has not allowed for any events or for the village hall to be open due to Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore no income generation for RCA and very little to report on. When visitors are allowed back there will need to be a focus on fundraising. Most of RCA funds are spent on electricity for the village hall/shop/kitchen.

2. Treasurer report

Jed provided the following report and updated on issues with the Royal Bank of Scotland account. Despite repeated measures to change the address of the RCA and to set up Internet banking, the bank has failed to implement these changes. The bank has asked that one signatory attend a branch to make changes to the account. Jed made a special trip to do this only to be told that two signatories must be present. Explained that this is virtually impossible for us both to be off island together and travel 100 miles during a pandemic to make these changes. No flexibility from bank. Bank has now stopped issuing statements which are being sent straight to branch. Impossible to operate this way. Jed will investigate making a complaint and switching bank accounts.

3. Nominations

Chairperson – Lesley Watt was nominated by Colin Kerr and seconded by Kate Bolas
Treasurer – Jed Cossar was nominated by Lesley Watt and seconded by Colin Kerr
Secretary – Sally Mason was nominated by Fliss Fraser and seconded by Sean Morris

RCA meeting following AGM

4. Minutes of last meeting

Incomplete but previous meeting was to brief catch up and to explain RCA constitution to new residents.

5. Hall electric costs

Most recent electricity bill for community hall was £3k for a period of 18 months. This is unsustainable for RCA now that price of electricity per unit has doubled. High bill is surprising because hall and teashop have been closed and had little use. Discussion on ways to bring costs down but switching off items when not in use and switching to energy saving bulbs are already being done. Recent safety tests by electricians found no issues that could lead to increased costs. Hall passed safety testing. Agreements with Rum Shop and teashop will be reviewed and Post Office will be asked to make a contribution to electric costs if Jinty can provide a local contact.

6. Potential grants for village hall improvements

Currently there are lots of grants available to community groups to apply for recovery from Covid and visitor management and facilities. Work to replace the decking and doors and get new furniture would be eligible under a few of these grants. Lesley will investigate.

Kat is also applying for grants to help with visitor management on Rum. Kat suggested to include funds for compost toilets in Grant applications. This will be suggested to Rum Enterprise to include in Grant for campsite upgrades.

7. Plan for village hall and kitchen use until end of June

Covid restrictions make it unlikely that village hall will be able to open to visitors before end of June due to limitations on the number of people that can be together indoors at any time and the difficulty in managing/imposing this. The village hall and kitchen will therefore be locked unless booked by individuals/groups compliant with Covid guidance. A lock will be fitted to internal hall doors beyond the porch. This will allow the mens toilet to remain open as a unisex public toilet.

Teashop will be open for set hours and the kitchen available to hire outside of teashop hours. Rates for hire of hall and kitchen have been the same for several years. These will be reviewed for 2021.

8. Highland Council Comfort Scheme Membership

There is a Highland Council fund for the provision of public toilets. The campsite and potentially the village hall would be eligible for £100-£300 per month towards upkeep of toilets. Lesley will investigate further and apply to this fund for Rum Enterprise (campsite toilets) and RCA (hall toilet).

9. Kinloch Castle Friends Association request for community rep

KCFA is looking for a Rum Community Rep to discuss thoughts on the future of the Castle at a webinar in May. It was agreed that opinions on the Castle amongst the community are mixed and that it would be impossible to present one joined up view. Agreed that it is important that someone from Rum attend to provide feedback and that individuals with strong opinions on the Castle encouraged to attend with an individual view. Ali to circulate email to let anyone that is interested know the details.

10. AOB

Manx shearwaters have now returned to breeding grounds on the Rum Cuillin. They are attracted to artificial light and often become grounded in the village when lights are left on at night. Everyone should turn off unnecessary lights at night and make use of blinds/curtains where possible to prevent shearwaters getting stranded. If anyone comes across a shearwater in the village it can be put in a box and released back to sea from the pier. Sean would like to put a ring on any unringed birds, they can be taken to Sean to be ringed and released. For further advice speak to Sean or Lesley.