

Torridon District Community Association

AGM Minutes

7.00pm Thursday 22nd November 2018

Loch Torridon Community Centre

Present: Clare O'Leary (Chairperson), Steve Schnabel (Treasurer), Katherine MacKenzie (Secretary), Chris Davies, Marianne Duncan, Lisa O'Brien, Kevin Wood
6 Members of the public in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Donald MacDonald
2. **Minutes of last meeting (30th November 2017):** **Approved by:** Lisa O'Brien, **seconded by** Kevin Wood.

3. **Matters arising:**

NTS Countryside Centre Update

Clare reported that there has been no further development on the Countryside Centre modernisation.

Inn Croft – Matt and Emily Youth Hostel have started work on Inn Croft. Question asked why was HC still cutting the grass now that it is a croft?

Torridon Campsite – Highland Council are proposing this as a new housing/affordable housing site.

Exterior paintwork to the original hall has now been completed.

4. **TDCA Annual Report from the Chairperson:**

a) Review of the Year

The Community Centre is very well used and the gallery is enjoyed by both visiting and locals alike. Many visitors are astounded with the high quality of the Centre's build and how it has been designed to make the most of our stunning surroundings.

The following are just some of the activities/events that have taken place in 2018 (the comprehensive list is held by our manager – Wilma Beaton - 3 weddings, University Mountain Club weekends, RAF Lossiemouth weekend, NHS meetings/training, Grazing Committee Meetings, 10 Food and Craft Markets, The Book launch of Torridon Place Names, Wester Ross Biosphere Conference, Country dancing Rally, Burns Supper and not forgetting the hosting of the Annual Extreme Celtman Triathlon held over the weekend of 16th June. It was extremely successful with 600-700 people attending from 37 countries. All thanks must go to our amazing and tireless volunteers and Wilma who worked well above and beyond her normal remit. Celtman have already booked for next June.

Sheila Bates, our recently appointed **Gallery Co-ordinator**, will update you regarding the Gallery.

This post created in spring 2017 continues to be a busy one. The flexi hours are also beneficial. Sheila works at the Centre most Wednesday mornings, giving more structure which is helpful all round and it gives artists an opportunity to meet with her and to share this responsibility with Wilma.

Our varied pool of artists currently numbers 73. This includes a couple of new painters and a couple of new makers, both working in wood, exhibiting their work this season. The Summer and Autumn Exhibitions were well supported by artists. A show of work from the local Primary schools ran through the summer holidays as well.

The Centre was bequeathed a large number of paintings from the Executory of Grieg Hall. This has been a big asset to the gallery. We shall continue to display his work and hopefully sell more through 2019.

b) Directors Updates

Kevin – TDCA Membership and Gym

Membership payments down again from previous year - reminder to be sent out to residents, families, groups.

The gym has been very busy over the last 12 months with current membership at:

12 monthly – 20

6 monthly – 2

3 monthly – 7

Monthly – 2

Family – 1

The gym gets used a lot during the summer by temporary staff from the Hotel.

Negotiations are in hand with the Hotel who want a “corporate” membership.

The redecorating at the gym was completed over last winter and all the machines serviced.

Marianne – Hall Committee Liaison

- a) Celtman was very successful again this year and many thanks all those that helped to make it a success;
- b) The new kitchen flooring is down and Kevin is going to see about new fronts for the kitchen cabinets;
- c) New drinks cooler has been bought and works very well;
- d) Sandra and Marianne to train those that want to do their 2 hour Personal License course – this will be done over the winter;
- e) The craft markets were again well attended this year;
- f) Wilma, Steve and Sheila are re arranging upstairs to make better use of the spaces;
- g) Our new cleaner Jane is doing a great job keeping the centre clean.

Lisa – Gallery Liaison

Thanks to Sheila, Wilma, Les, Steve and Clare for all their hard work, running the gallery, overseeing the artists submissions, working on the front desk and dealing with payment to artists.

Newsletters have continued to be published online almost monthly with interviews from the artists who are showing in the gallery

Refurbishment of key display areas to improve display of fabrics and ceramics and increasing the available wall space to take place over winter 2018-2019.

The art gallery will go onto Instagram in the New Year.

A new system for rationalising the storage of artwork and how long we keep it is being put into place.

Chris – Web site/Facebook

Followers on Facebook are increasing and very active we have around 512 followers.

Posts are constantly updated with events as they come in. Usage of the web site is low but as it is primarily a static site this is not a problem.

Donald – Sound System

Steve has shown Donald how the sound system in the main hall works and how the projector system works in the AV room.

c) User Group Reports

Senior Citizens

On 21st June 27 people had a day out to the Highland Folk Museum in Kingussie, with a stop off in Inverness for shopping and then onto the Priory in Beaulieu for high tea. The cost of this year's trip was £700 plus. Funds are healthy but fundraising continues with quizzes, whist drives and donations. Many thanks to Kirst MacKenzie for her continued fund-raising and organisation.

First Responders

We have 6 first responder coming on rota who provide night cover and all day cover on Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays when the surgery is closed. Airwave radios are used now instead of mobile phones. Training takes place monthly.

Defibrillators are placed in Diabaig, Inveralligin and Torridon – there is annual training but Kirsty offers training to anyone who wishes to be trained. A training session is planned for next spring. Funds to cover maintenance and replacement of batteries continues via donations and whist drives.

Torridon and District Lunch Club

Lunch club finished in May 2018 after 23 years due to lack of support and volunteers having other commitments. The remaining funds of £2501.50 have been transferred to the TDCA account on the understanding that if anyone wishes to start up Lunch Club again the monies go to them.

Many thanks to Marianne, Sandra, Maggie and Katherine for their continued support in running the club.

Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish Country dancing meet every Tuesday in the larger hall and enjoy an evening of dancing. It has dropped quite low in numbers. This year our dancing rally with Gairloch took place in Torridon. We are always happy to welcome new members experienced or complete novices - come along on a Tuesday evening and give it a try.

Badminton Club

We continue to play each Monday night whenever we have enough players. In recent years we have operated a Facebook group page to enable us to see who else is available to play without having to make numerous phone calls back and forth.

Players attend from Diabaig, Alligin, Annat, Shieldaig, Kishorn and occasionally Lochcarron. Currently we have about a dozen regular members with adults paying £3.00 and students £1.50 per session which pays for the Hall hire and provision of equipment.

Christmas Party

In 2017 the party was attended by 70 adults and 8 children. This year's party is scheduled for Saturday 22nd December 2018. Funds are very healthy.

Strupag

There were only been 2 sessions this year. Difficult to get volunteers to help. A Strupag session is arranged for Friday 14th December. Hoping to do 1 per month next year.

Craft Workshops

The Torridon Arts and Culture group have continued to run the Craft Workshops on the second Monday of the month for over 10 years. There are now up to 40 people who attend the day from 10 – 4pm on a regular basis. Sessions in the past year have included pottery, spinning, whittling, candle making and ceramic painting. However, many people bring their own craft work and just enjoy sitting with others whilst they work on their projects. The day includes a delicious three course meal and lots of coffees and teas. People travel from up to 40 miles away to enjoy the day. The group is self-financing with the £7 per person charge covering all the costs.

Whist

The whist drives continue fortnightly during the winter months run by volunteers.

Health and Fitness

Sarah Almond continues to run yoga classes on Tuesdays from 5.30 – 7pm. Podiatry and reflexology provided fortnightly by Isla Ross (by appointment).

5. Treasurer's Report

The TDCA made an operating surplus of £565 in the year, a slight decrease from £1,912 made in 2016-17. Overall, revenue was 6.8% up on last year. Gallery sales totalled £27,240, an increase of 6%. Fitness membership was £914 down on the previous "bumper" year but with no new equipment purchased the net contribution was much improved at £2,474 (2107: £865).

We enjoyed our first full year of rent from Tesco for their Click 'n' Collect delivery service to the Community Centre which generates £150 income a month.

Operating expenses were 10% higher than last year broadly across all categories - although repairs and maintenance costs included some large one-offs - replacement boiler (£1,440 plus £1,151 labour) and a new kitchen floor (£1,196).

The bank balance on 30 April 2018 was £36,793 (2017: £34,278).

6. Election of Members to TDCA – no nominations.

7. Any Other Business

- Who should be maintaining the 2 benches given to the community that are at the Jo's café? TDCA to discuss at their February 2019 meeting.
- A question was asked about whether the Centre would be deemed "ready" in the event of an emergency as it seemed the logical place for residents to assemble on such an event. Apparently Shildaig recently secured an Emergency Resilience Grant from SSE and would this be an appropriate course for the LTCC? Subject to be raised at the next Board meeting.
- Kirsty is running a quiz to raise funds for the Centre on Friday 7th December. Donations requested for raffle and baking.

8. Date of next AGM meeting

Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7pm in the Loch Torridon Community Centre.

NB: After the meeting Clare stood down as Chair person but remains a director of the TDCA

Kevin was nominated by Clare as our new Chairperson – seconded by Marianne. Kevin agreed to take over from Clare.