



Minutes of AGM: 9th December 2020 on Zoom.

Present: Kevin Wood (Chair), Zoe Hudson, Marianne Duncan, Robert Forshaw, Steve Schnabel (Treasurer), Wilma Beaton

Members of the Public: Laura Reid, Caroline Hamilton, Donald MacDonald, Anne Wood, Donnie Beaton

1. Apologies

Chris Davies, Mat Webster, Les and Sheila Bates

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting (19.11.20)

Proposed: ZH Seconded: MD.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Resilience planning: This was discussed and now linked in with the Community Development Plan.

3.2 Reaching out to relevant groups: TDCA has reached out to relevant groups over the past year and is now forging closer relationships one these being Kinlochewe Village Hall and in particular coordination of events. We are also promoting events etc on local Facebook pages which seems to be bringing in more people from the surrounding areas.

3.3 The questions raised by Mat Webster over the Gym were answered in the Christmas 2020 newsletter

3.4 Public Toilets in Torridon: This has been an ongoing saga over the past twelve months which Mat has been looking after and doing a sterling job. Having been initially run by volunteers over the summer period they are now fortunately back in the hands of Highlife Highland.

3.5 Wedding enquiries: We never really got to the bottom of where the enquiries came from, but it seems to be mainly word of mouth and from events like Celtman. We still believe we must put more into the promotion of weddings and will be on our agenda next year, but on the plus side we have already secured a few weddings for 2022.

4. TDCA Annual report - review of the year

4.1 Chairs Report

Another challenging year for the Community and the Centre, but we seem to have come through it relatively unscathed.

Due to Covid we had to close for the majority of the winter but was eventually able to open the café and gallery on the 5th April 2021 and after a further relaxation of the Covid rules we were finally able to open the Centre fully at the beginning of September.

Although closed for most of the winter we were still busy planning for the year ahead, undertaking maintenance improvement works at the Centre as follows.

- Modifications to the top car park
- New storage container and access ramp
- Installation of new fencing to side of bridge over the burn
- New path up to the NTS cairn
- New community centre signage
- Installation of cinema equipment into the main hall
- Purchase of new laptop
- New external table and benches for the front patio
- Two new parasols for the patio area
- Installation of a new fibre connection for phone and internet
- Creation of a promotional video for the centre
- New art storage racks
- Replacement electronic rear door access facility
- Replacement Alarm panel in main hall
- Several emergency plumbing and electrical issues have also been sorted throughout the year.

The expenditure on maintenance does not stop there mainly due to the age of certain parts of the centre and the next project is the replacement of several windows in the main hall which is due to take place over the next couple of months. We will also be looking at decorating/updating several areas in the main hall that are just looking a little tired.

We had hoped to have installed EV charging points at the centre by now but have been awaiting SSE to sort out the Electrical Upgrade and in particular the wayleaves but understand this is virtually sorted so hopefully this work will be completed over the winter.

We have attempted to bring several Community Services to the centre such as a hairdresser and podiatrist but due to small numbers using these facilities it was not economically viable for them to continue.

On a positive note, the number of user groups now using the centre are increasing together along with more people starting to use the gym again.

Since opening, the footfall at the Centre has been phenomenal mainly due to the draw of the café and, as such, gallery sales have far exceeded expectations, which is good for the Centre and our local artists.

Robert has put a lot of time in over the year getting all the licenses/agreements in place to enable us to screen films on our new cinema system. We are putting on both matinee and evening showings, which have been generally well attended and will continue to have monthly screenings throughout the winter. We will review in the new year what to do over the summer months.

Chris and Wilma have been busy filling the Centre calendar for the next year, which already looks busy with bookings and events. The Centre is being hired by several outside groups, weddings and of course Celtman will be back to celebrate their 10th anniversary so expect this to be an exciting event. Several concerts have been rescheduled which were cancelled last year and I know Chris is working on a few more, as well as talks and other interesting things.

Hope you have all enjoyed the cheery quarterly newsletter put together by Mat and trust you all find this informative.

Finally on behalf of the Directors I would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped at the Centre, as without your continued support/help these events would not take place.

4.2 User Groups Report

Badminton

As a result of Covid restrictions we didn't play during the last year until 19th July. Since then, we have played whenever 5 or more players are available.

As we have a good balance in the bank account (£365) we have decided to temporarily half subscriptions to £1 for adults, 50p for school age players.

New members are always welcome - some of our older ones are feeling the strain!

Pete Meredith

Christmas Party

After such a great gathering in 2019 at the Hall it was disappointing to not be able to build on that success for 2020. However, we brought some simple ideas together and we hope there was still a sense of Christmas cheer in the community.

Funds were spent on some Christmas tree lights & baubles suitable for outdoor use. These were distributed across our 5 villages. Christmas trees were found for villages wanting to participate, with some being made available from Seamus & NT. Notably Inveralligin sourced theirs from their own woodland.

The trees were decorated by members of each community, which proved to be quite a social occasion especially in Fasaig, Inveralligin and Diabaig. There were, however, issues with deer and weather damage in Annat.

The lights and decorations acquired for this will be available for future use.

Big thanks go to Andrew Peacock! He offered Santa to visit family homes with Primary age kids with their annual gift from the community. With the generous help of Mary Peart, Santa was transported around one wet evening. Andrew's outfit and banter was hugely appreciated by the kids and their parents.

No fund raising has taken place in the past 12 months.

Costs Christmas 2020 as follows

7 children were supplied with a present @ £10 each	£70.00
Lighting & baubles	£177.47

Santa's, thank you voucher	£20.00
Total costs	<u>£267.47</u>

Balance at bank@ 01.02 2021	<u>£435.70</u>
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Sheila Bates - named account holder.

Sheila, Anne, Kirsty

Country dancing

Torrison Scottish Country Dance group met again at the beginning of October after an almost two years break due to Covid. Dancers were delighted to be back dancing once again and meeting sociably. No objections were raised regarding the guidelines put in place to keep us all safe. We have a good number of dancers this session. A couple of dancers decided not to return for the time being. We are delighted to welcome back the return of a couple of dancers, after a break of several years due to work commitments. We also welcomed one new dancer to our group.

We are pleased to report that Scottish Country Dancing is still strong in our area.

Regards,

Marie.

Craft Workshop

I am afraid I don't have very much to report as we have only restarted the workshop in August. However, the first three have been well supported with around 25 people attending each time. We have increased the subscription from £7 to £8 for the day as it includes a meal and the cost of food has increased recently. There will be a Christmas lunch at the workshop on December 13th.

Glyn

Public Access Defibrillators (AEDs) (Torrison, Alligin, Diabaig)

Diabaig G5 (Looked after by Art) at restaurant.

Battery life at 75% which should last up to 3 years.

Pad expiry dates

1.28.9.22

2.28.9.22

Alligin G5 (Checked monthly by Kirsty)

Battery life 25% plus new battery available in cabinet with 4-5 yr life

Pad expiry dates

1.28.9.22

2. 28.7.23

Torrison G3 (checked monthly by Kirsty)

Battery life 75% (3-4 yrs)

Pad expiry dates

1.28.11.21

2.28.11.21

I will replace pads by 28.11.21 with pads with expiry date of 28.7.23 (2)

Looking at expiry dates of pads 3 sets will require to be purchased early 2022.
The defibrillator fund currently stands at £1094.50.

Torrison Community First Responders

Co-ordinator Emily John 07876 610167 emilysarahjohn@gmail.com

Torrison and Kinlochewe Senior Citizens Fund

Due to present regulations no trip was organised for this year 2021

Funds remain as last year which are healthy. Hopefully in 2022 we will be able to organise an outing.

Thanks

Kirsty

Wee Whistle Stop Café

It has been a very challenging here at the café, the most I have ever had in my catering years

Being locked down, reopening and locked down again all adds to the costs

Staffing has been the most difficult with none available compared to previous years, which is the same all over the country. Because of this we had to close many days we did not want to, and we were not to be able to open at the weekends. We also had to cancel lots of Fish Fridays

But on a positive note, I have been very lucky to have some great women working with me and managed to get some younger staff to do some summer work who were just brilliant.

Nearly all the visitors were very aware of no close contact and very happy to wait to be served as they were aware of staff shortages, so that was very positive.

The patio has been full on good days, people so much enjoying being out there eating and enjoying the views with the lovely furniture to sit on, and the umbrellas made it look very European.

We have had good support from the locals and many of my old Whistle Stop customers come to visit us.

I am sure 2022 will be a challenge as well with rising food costs and staffing, but we will do our best.

There is no doubt the cafe inside the hall works well when other activities are going on, we all just get on with our own thing as if it has always been like that.

We close the café on the 18th December the same day as our Cheese fare so hope to see you all there.

Reopen on February the 14th for Valentine's Day - see you all then in 2022.

Lisbeth Broome

Yoga

I'm delighted to report that yoga sessions resumed at the Community Centre on 1st September 2021.

The new instructor, "Yoga" Bob from Gairloch, holds sessions fortnightly on Wednesday evenings 5:30 - 7:00. He alternates Torridon Wednesdays with sessions in Kinlochewe.

Of course, these are early days (we've only hosted 4 sessions so far) but the average attendance is 11 from a contact pool of 18 who have been to at least one session, and a further 7 who have shown interest but not yet attended. Attendees have joined us from Shildaig, Kishorn and Arrina.

We hope to ensure these good attendance figures continue to ensure some surplus funds can be accumulated to cover the sessions when very few turn up (eg. on cold, wet, dark winter evenings).

Everyone is very welcome to come along - the next session is scheduled for Wednesday, 24 November - no need to book, just turn up. And Yoga Bob has a few spare mats and blocks so no kit required.

Come along and give it a try. Or if you just want to keep updated with future sessions drop me an email: steve1schnabel@gmail.com

5. Treasurer's report

Year ended 30 April 2021

NB The statutory accounts were independently examined and approved in August - copies available on our website

Income for the year totalled £134,942 which included Covid-related income support grants from the Highland Council of £50,000 and the "tourism infrastructure" and "digital enablement" restricted grants of £58,545 from Highland & Island Enterprises (HIE).

Of the latter, £32,928 was directed to tangible asset purchases (patio furniture and parasols, cinema fit out/equipment) and the balance to "expensed" items (power system upgrade, replacement container, upgraded signage, car park works, promo video). The total spend on these grant-funded items was £65,417; the grants of £58,545 represented 94% and 75% of the

budget spend respectively meaning the TDCA made up the difference of £6,872.

In addition, HMRC CJRS grants of £8,875 covered most of payroll costs whilst staff were on furlough during the two Covid lockdowns.

All the tourism infrastructure and digital enablement grants had been paid to the providers to meet the HIE requirement that monies be spent by 31 March 2021 except 50% balance held back for the parasols as these were only installed in May (now paid). The SSE power upgrade to the Centre has not yet been supplied.

Expenses for the year totalled £91,223 but after taking out the expenditure covered by grants noted above, the operating expenses were £52,481 compared to £48,474 the previous year. This increase of £4,007 resulted primarily from £2,990 more on repairs (£5,668 was spent on roof repairs) and £800 legal fees associated with the café lease.

Depreciation expenses were significantly increased on the prior year as a result of the tangible assets purchased during 2020-21 - restricted asset purchases: as above, unrestricted purchases: the new kitchen. Assets are depreciated at 20% per annum on a reducing balance basis.

Cash in the bank on 30 April 2021 was £ 50,638 (2020: £ 44,014).

Five months ended 30 September 2021

Gallery sales continue to impress, up 95% on the same period 2 years ago.

Although there have been no weddings this year, rent from the Wee Whistle Stop café has ensured total venue hire income is back to previous levels. £2800 has been taken in deposits for wedding bookings (one in Nov 21, two in May 22).

Catering income is 35% down on 2 years ago as the only catered event held this year has been Celtman.

Fitness centre subscriptions of £580 are well down on 2 years ago but many members have “credit” due to the extended closure during lockdown. Hopefully we will see these subscriptions rebound in the coming months.

In total, income was down 27% on 2 years ago but, as the Centre only reopened fully in August, this is encouraging.

Expenses are 17% up on 2019 but much of this is attributable to £2520 spent on a replacement access system for fitness centre users and £866 on “once every 5 years” major fire extinguisher maintenance. We also paid the balance of £786 in legal fees for the café lease.

Cash in the bank at the end of September totalled £47,175 (2020: £52,248; 2019: £47,418). This is after paying £9,318 as a deposit to ERG for replacement windows in the old hall due for installation over the coming low season.

6. Elections for the Torridon District Community Association directors

As required by the Articles of Association Chris Davies having done 6 years' service and unfortunately for us has to stand down. Chris over those years has not been one to stand back and do nothing especially on the promotional side having redesigned the website, updated the Facebook page, created the new promotional video, seeking and booking artists/public speakers to perform at the Centre as well as volunteering to help at Events.

We will miss Chris greatly but hopefully she will still help in some capacity going forward so thank you Chris for all your time and effort put into all that you have done for the Centre which I am sure is greatly appreciated by all.

The formal invite for new Directors to apply for a Board position was circulated to all members on the 26th of October 2021 and by the closing date set for the 11th of November 2021 we can report that we have received 2 Director's nomination forms for the following members:

Gail Lowe
Laura Reid

The members approved the election of the above nominees to join the Board.

Steve Schnabel agreed to continue as Treasurer.

7. AOB

7.1 Premises License - This has been held by Sandra Brown for many years and after discussion between the Directors it was felt that this should now be held by Wilma as Centre Manager. We can confirm that the Premises License has now been transferred into Wilma's name.

The Directors would like to thank Sandra for administering the License over those years.

8. Date of next meeting: 17th November 2022