



Minutes of AGM: 17th November 2022.

Present: Kevin Wood (Chair), Matt Webster, Laura Reid, Gail Lowe, Marianne Duncan, Zoe Hudson (phone) Robert Forshaw (phone)

Members of the Public: Wilma Beaton, Anne Wood, Jo Harris, Martin Lowe, Phil Reid.

1. Apologies

None

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting (9.12.21)

Proposed: LR Seconded: MD.

3. Matters arising

None

4. TDCA Annual report - review of the year

4.1 Chairs Report

After two years of Covid restrictions it has been a joy to get back to somewhere near normal, but even so, the year has still had its challengers, changes, progress, and excitement.

Challenges

There are always challenges, but the biggest is always ensuring the Community Centre is self-funding and although the previous two years have been hard and helped enormously by Government Grants, funding gets harder especially with spiraling costs and increased maintenance costs.

Over the past twelve months we have replaced several windows and doors in the Main Hall and kitchens plus there are more to replace over the next few years. Two cookers have also been replaced in the main kitchen along with several smaller maintenance issues that occurred during the year.

Laura together with Marianne and Wilma have put together a repair and maintenance schedule which will be implemented over the next couple of years as and when funds are available.

You have probably been wondering why having installed the two new EV chargers they are not available for use. Well, this has been one of the other major challenges, trying to get SSE to come to site and install a new underground cable to the Community Centre to increase the necessary power supply to support the chargers. SSE were instructed and the works paid for in March 2021 and we have just been informed that this will now be SSE's next

job, with a start date mid-December 2022. We are therefore hopeful that final works and commissioning will be complete before March 2023.

Change

There have been several changes in personnel during the year, the first being the resignation of Steve Schnabel as treasurer. Steve had been treasurer for many years and as such the Directors take this opportunity to thank him for his time and support over this period.

Meryl Bulaon resigned as Gallery Manager having been in that position for the past 2 years. Meryl again put a lot of time and effort into improving the gallery as well as seeking out and bringing new artists to the Centre. Meryl also resigned from undertaking the cleaning duties at the Centre. The Directors again would like to thank Meryl for the excellent work she did.

Progress

Karen Starr is now our new treasurer and has been in office since May 2022. Most of you will know Karen who has lived and worked in the area for many years. As with most things it takes time to settle into and familiarise yourself with new accounts, but Karen is thorough and has managed this admirably and is well on top of things now.

Hannah Feuerstein is our new Gallery Manager and has been in office since June 2022. For those that don't know, Hannah is an artist in her own right having graduated from Dundee University and recently set up her studio at Torridon House. Hannah is gradually getting to know all the current artists as well as sourcing new artists. She has just set up her first exhibition titled 'Autumn Air' at the Centre which is one of a number scheduled over the next twelve months.

We have also made considerable progress with our IT system thanks to Gail and Martin who have undertaken a lot of work investigating and reconfiguring the system to make it more user friendly for all. We have still a few more things to sort out but hopefully we will shortly have internet access in the Main Hall. Gail is also in the process of putting together an 'idiot's guide' to the system such that we can all understand it!

As well as researching which films to show each month, Robert has spent a significant amount of time in discussions with Tesco's legal department amending our current licence agreement to allow their competitors to also use our car park for click and collect services. As hopefully you have all recently seen on various social media sites, we now have Morrison's providing an alternative click and collect service on a Monday and Thursday.

Excitement

Wilma and Chris Davies have been doing an excellent job in populating the Centre Calendar with events throughout the last year and with all the user groups commencing again means that the Centre has been very busy.

We have hosted:

- 5 Weddings
- 3 University weekends
- 2 Concerts - 300 tickets sold for each event.
- 3 Evening Talks on wildlife and adventures around the world.
- Celtman and Celtman Solo Point Five which was added to the calendar to celebrate Celtman's 10th Anniversary.
- Craft Markets every two weeks
- Saturday Cinema once a month.

The Wee Whistle Stop Café has also been very busy and the footfall from this has meant that gallery sales have again been good for the year. We would like to thank Lis and her team for all the hard work in making the café one of the 'go to places' in the area.

Mat's newsletters have again been cheerful and informative and hopefully you have all enjoyed being kept up to date on what's happening at the Community Centre and within the wider community.

Finally, I am standing down as Chair following the AGM, but over the past three years it has been our goal to increase the number of income streams so that we are not solely dependent on one major event per year. In putting this into place we have had our ups and downs as well as different opinions and so would like to thank the Directors and Wilma for all their support over the past three years.

There are still many areas to improve and am sure the Directors will set new goals and take the much admired Community Centre to a new level.

4.2 User Groups Report

Badminton

No report

Christmas Party

There was no party due to ongoing Covid restrictions. Santa (Andrew Peacock) & "Rudolph" successfully delivered presents to 6 Primary School youngsters in their own homes again. This was a big success. One Christmas tree was installed in Fasaig for a while only, due to weather conditions. The National Trust, with thanks to Paul Bolton, provided a Christmas tree for the Hall. This was decorated and appreciated by user groups over the festive season.

Funds are a bit low now but still sufficient to kick start plans for the 2022 Christmas party which are well under way. Two Fundraising events for this are planned with the first already taken place with a stall at the Christmas Thursday Market.

With thanks to everyone who helped with this and last year's severely pared down celebration

	1 Nov 2021	1 Nov 2022
Balance	£ 435.70	£ 335.70

Sheila Bates
Treasurer.

Church of Scotland

We use the Hall for Sunday morning services every 2 months. We've used the conference room on one occasion when there was a wedding in the hall on the Saturday. Everything has worked well and Wilma has been very supportive. The bonus is your kindness in not charging us - thank you.

Richard Munday

Community Car Scheme (South West Ross)

Another year of uncertainty was experienced by all of our communities with the relaxing of restrictions and the re-introduction of restrictions; the changing needs and responses leaving many feeling vulnerable or still unsure about things. All this affected the services provided by SWRCCS in how people wanted to engage with volunteering activities and the types of car runs that people felt comfortable, or not, undertaking. It also affected users of the service in how people felt comfortable or not taking public transport, accessing medical appointments and socialising. It certainly feels like a long time now since community events have taken place, not to mention volunteer socials! The residents in this remote area continue to have difficulties accessing a number of services such as opticians and those that previously provided outreach to the area, some of which have currently not been resumed.

Despite all of this, SWRCCS continues to get people to places they need to go for medical and essential purposes such as visiting elderly relatives in care homes. The number of longer runs to access services not provided in the area such as hospitals and opticians continues. What's more we sincerely hope that in 2022 we will be able to resume social runs safely and the board is keeping a close eye on the situation to be able to do this at the soonest opportunity.

The commitment and dedication of our volunteers, as drivers, telephonists and board members has enabled us to continue to provide this essential service to our communities. Giving time, the use of their cars or telephones, donating and sharing a friendly conversation and smile all make SWRCCS' work hugely valued in the community. Long may it continue! A big 'thank you' to you all.

Our records show that SWRCCS drivers have travelled a massive 21,790 miles during this year of which 13,970 miles were travelled with a passenger in the car getting them to wherever they needed to be. 1,575 prescriptions have been delivered and 167 other deliveries made to doorsteps throughout our area. A massive achievement.

The work of the volunteers was also recognised by a Commendation from the Lord Lieutenant's office and a Local Hero award from Torriddon & Kinlochewe Community Council. We are very grateful for this recognition and hope to have the chance to celebrate with all our volunteers soon.

Peter Fenton

Country dancing

No report

Craft Workshop

No report

Free Church of Scotland (Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torriddon)

We meet every 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month in the large hall from 2.30pm to around 4.30pm. As a group of up to 20 meeting each time for a Sunday Service we appreciate the new projector and sound system installed during or after Covid lockdown. It's a great facility and enhances the service very much indeed. The hall is spacious, warm and comfortable and the kitchen facilities, which we use after the service for some light refreshments, are excellent.

We are very grateful to the Committee for allowing us to use the Hall free of charge.

Colin

Minister GKT Free Church

Pilates

I moved to Torriddon in August 2021. I was familiar with the hall as I had previously been asked to run Pilates classes in 2015, when I lived in Poolewe. At that time however it was not a viable situation.

After gauging initial interest from the local community, I started running Pilates classes in Torriddon on 25/11/21, initially with 2 weekly classes; an afternoon and an evening class. Uptake was good at the start, with both classes fully subscribed and averaging 8-10 participants per class. From February 2022, numbers declined in both groups partly due to a spike in Covid illness and the lifting of restrictions on travel abroad, so participation was more sporadic. As is usual with fitness classes in my experience, attendance over the summer months declines when the weather improves. Several attendees travelled to my classes from Lochcarron and Shieldaig, so from May 2022 I started 2 weekly classes in Shieldaig hall. This obviously affected numbers in the Torriddon classes so I amalgamated 2 classes into 1 from May onwards. Current participation in the Torriddon Pilates class averages 50%, meaning that it breaks even.

Between February - April 2022 I also started a fortnightly beginners Pilates class, alternating with the yoga classes that were already running. However, there were insufficient regular attendees to make this viable long term. The

fortnightly Pilates classes in Torricon alternated with my classes in Kinlochewe and when the yoga classes ceased there, I was asked to teach weekly in Kinlochewe.

Looking ahead, I would like to improve uptake in the Torricon class up to a maximum of 10, and am considering whether a change of time/day would help, but this will be in consultation with my regular clients. I may also try another beginners/returners class in the New Year, with the aim of feeding into the established class after several weeks. In addition, I am considering other class options for general health and fitness and/or physiotherapy-based class sessions to address specific health conditions, e.g., back and neck problems, upper/lower limb issues, balance and falls prevention. Torricon Community Centre has excellent facilities for classes such as these, however, all these options are subject to sufficient regular interest. My overall aim would not be to charge more than an affordable rate, for classes that address health and wellbeing, but rather to be able to provide a service that benefits the whole community, should that be of interest.

Eve Bolton

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

Torricon G3

Checked by Kirsty monthly

As of beginning Nov 22:

Battery 25% (should last for further 1 yr)

Pads : Exp dates 28.07.23 & 28.07.23

Alligin G5

Checked by Kirsty monthly

As of beginning Nov. 22:

Battery 75%

Pads: Exp dates 28.07.23 & 28.01.25

Diabaig G5

Looked after by Art at restaurant

As at Oct 22:

Battery 75%

Pads : Exp dates 28.07.23 & 28.01.25

In hand as at 10.11.22

1 battery for G5

1 battery for G3

AED fund held by TDCA, unaware of total money in fund.

Thanks Kirsty

Talks and Gigs

Our plans to attract and invite more events to the centre continue to bear fruit this year. After a lot of work which goes on unseen in the background, we managed to secure some fantastic events in 2022 for the community which were all brilliantly well attended.

18th February - Alex Moran from the Martin Moran Foundation presented on his extraordinary Scottish Island Munro Triathlon

23rd February - Caroline Hamilton, took us through the experiences & tales of being the Leader of the first ever all-women expeditions to ski all the way to both the North Pole & South Pole

12th August - Beluga Lagoon - Scottish band and BBC wildlife film makers, sold out the hall with wonderful music

16th September - Peat & Diesel - the lads from Shetland sold out, and had the hall rocking

We will continue to bring new acts to the centre (Scottish Opera are already booked for March 2023), but if you have any suggestions of bands, speakers, performances etc, please do let us know and we will try our hardest to get them to come to Torridon for you.

Chris Davies

Torridon Community First Responders

No report

Torridon and Kinlochewe Senior Citizens Fund

No bus outing took place in June 22. Hope to organise a trip in 2023. Fund healthy at present. No fundraising events held in '21 & '22

Thanks

Kirsty

Yoga

No report

5. Treasurer's report

Year ended 30 April 2022

NB The statutory accounts were independently examined and approved in October - copies available on our website or at Companies House.

Income for the year totalled £65,840 (2021 - £134,942) which included "tourism infrastructure" and "digital enablement" restricted grants of £14,029 (2021 - £58,545) from Highland & Island Enterprises (HIE).

Following the removal of covid funds supporting staff costs, there were no CJRS grants for staff salaries during 21/22.

The two EV charging points have been installed, however the SSE power upgrade to the Centre has not yet been supplied. Consequently, they have not yet been commissioned.

Expenses for the year totalled £96,484 but after taking out the expenditure covered by grants noted above, the operating expenses were £86,106 compared to £52,481 the previous year. This increase of £33,625 resulted primarily from the full re-starting of trading activities and £8,922 repairs and renewals for replacement windows.

Cash in the bank on 30 April 2022 was £50,520 (2021: £50,638).

Current year - Five months ended 30 September 2022

Gallery sales have fallen back (19%) this year from the high achieved last year following the full re-opening of tourism.

There have been 5 weddings and 2 major concerts, along with the continued rent from the Wee Whistle Stop and several community interest talks.

Celtman income has increased this year, partly because the full Celtman event returned and a further smaller event was trialled.

Expenses this year include the replacement of two ovens in the kitchen and a 70% increase in electricity costs compared with the same period last year.

Cash in the bank at the end of September totalled £40,687 (2021: £47,175; 2020: £52,248).

6. Elections for the Torrison District Community Association directors

As required by the Articles of Association Kevin Wood and Marianne Duncan having done 6 years' service unfortunately have to stand down.

The formal invite for new Directors to apply for a Board position was circulated to all members on the 24th of October 2021 and by the closing date set for the 10th of November 2021 we can report that we have received 1 Director's nomination form for the following member:

Christine Davies

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

Karen Starr agreed to continue as Treasurer

Zoe Hudson agreed to continue as Secretary

7. AOB

None

8. Date of next meeting: 16th November 2023