

ABERLADY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SMALL HALL ON
WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 2015

Present

Members

Donald Hay (Chair)
Hilary Wilkie (Booking secretary)
Ross Searle (Treasurer)
Jackie Burman
Ros Richardson
Sheila Baird
Helen Campbell
Damien Noonan
Ricky Verrall (Minutes Secretary)

Trustees

Iain Macaskill
Archie Baird

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Damien Noonan who had joined the Committee specifically to provide assistance with the Community Association website, and noted apologies from Anne Tate, Donna Mathieson and Roger Thomas.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 3 December 2014

2.1 Approved.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Para 3.1: **British Gas invoice query** - done; **previous energy efficiency report** – ongoing. Para 4.1 – **letter to Wemyss Estate solicitors** – done. Para 6.1 – **electrician** – ongoing; **new buffer pads** – unable to source (buffer is obsolete) Hilary reported that GL Floors will advise on best type of replacement buffer so that the Committee can decide whether or not to purchase. Para 7.2 – **Chair to write to Roger Thomas** – done; **contacts re websites** – done.

4. Correspondence

4.1 None.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Ross tabled a statement of financial activity for the period 4 December 2014 to 7 January 2015. Income had been £1,391.60 and expenditure £827.65. Total bank balance carried forward stood at £9,669.14. There were pending liabilities for insurance of £794.91. Ross confirmed that the annual donation from the Wemyss estate had not been received and that he would chase as necessary.

ACTION: Treasurer to chase Wemyss Estate annual donation if necessary.

6. Booking Secretary's Report

6.1 Hilary noted stable bookings. There were some minor carpentry issues in the kitchen and with the main hall front door, and Helen agreed to contact a joiner to have these rectified.

ACTION: Helen to approach a joiner to arrange small repairs to the hall front door and to some units in the kitchen.

7. The Future of www.aberlady.org

7.1 Donald reported on his discussions and e-mail exchanges with Roger Thomas, which had already been circulated to Committee members, one main outcome of which was that Damien had joined the Committee and was happy to assist with a new website design. Damien recommended retention of the www.aberlady.org website address and domain name but with the site content refreshed to be more up to date, with clearer links to and information on other groups and matters of local interest (eg the nature reserve warden's updates) and accessible for editorial purposes by more than one person. He also recommended that those who currently used an aberlady.org e-mail address should be able to continue to do so if they wished, and agreed to contact users for their views. He further recommended that an editorial sub-group should be established to consider the re-vamp of the website and how best to involve others in the community (eg he suggested that local school children might be invited to contribute). Damien offered to make some initial proposals for the refreshed website for consideration by the editorial sub-group prior to the next main Committee meeting.

7.2 The Committee thanked Damien for agreeing to take on this task on a voluntary basis and agreed with all of his recommendations. Donald and Jackie agreed to join the editorial sub-group and Damien agreed to fix a date prior to 4 February – he would e-mail all Committee members with the date so that anyone interested in joining the sub-group could take part. Damien also agreed to speak to Roger Thomas and Ross about the practicalities of handing over management of the website. The Committee expressed their thanks to Roger Thomas for all of his work on the website over several years.

ACTION: Damien to (a) scope out some initial proposals for the refresh of the website for consideration by the new editorial sub-group; (b) fix a date for the meeting of the editorial sub-group; (c) contact current aberlady.org e-mail address users for their views on continuation; and (d) liaise with Roger Thomas and Ross about practicalities of handing over management of the website.

8. Fundraising

8.1 The Committee noted a successful Christmas carol concert. The Committee agreed that Hilary should approach the Community Council to apply for funding for 6 new tables.

ACTION: Hilary to approach the Community Council for funding for 6 new tables.

9. AOCB

9.1 Jackie raised the ongoing East Lothian Council consultation on a local plan which might see new housing in the fields to the east (private development, market rate housing) or west (mixed private development and affordable housing) of the village. The Committee agreed to respond to the consultation, on behalf of the Community Association, expressing a preference for mixed economy housing. The Council's deadline for responses was 8 February.

ACTION: Chair to write to East Lothian Council before 8 February setting out the Community Association's preference for a mix of market rate and affordable housing for any future development adjacent to the village.

9.2 Jackie raised the General Election in May and the possibility of encouraging use of the hall for political hustings. The Committee agreed to consider this at its next meeting.

ACTION: Committee to consider encouraging use of the hall for political hustings at its meeting on 4 February.

9.3 Sheila noted the loss of some public seating in various parts of the village. The Committee agreed to ask the Community Council for funding for a replacement.

ACTION: Hilary to seek funding from the Community Council for replacement public seating as part of her approach under item 8.1 above.

10. Next Meeting

10.1 7.00pm on Wednesday 4 February 2015 in the small hall.

Donald Hay
4 February 2015