Balloch Community Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting 17 November 2014

**Present**: B Lowrie, M Reid, L Robertson, L Lowrie, J Card.

**Apologies:** R McGowan, I Brill

**Minutes** BL read out the minutes of the last meeting which were approved, proposed by J C and seconded by BL

**Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting.**

Community Council meeting may be in the corner of the Large Hall, while Bonsai Group meets in Small Hall. This to replace their former booking of the Committee Room and to be at same rent as that let.

**Agenda**

1. **President’s Report.**
2. The Council’s Insurance asked for 1 quote for repair to roof. BL met with Apex roofing company, who quoted £15,000. MacLeod roofing have yet to come and look at the job.
3. Northern Security will charge £140 for annual inspection of the alarm system. To comply with regulations the quote for fire extinguishers’ maintenance is for £337.20 + VAT. This would cover service, fitting of anti-tamper tags, replacement of kitchen extinguisher with one suited to enclosed areas, and photo-luminescent signage for exits etc. Committee agreed this should go ahead.
4. BCA website has been upgraded by R. Halkett - the committee was urged to look at it.
5. Unicyclists no longer use the hall.
6. The sign on the Barn Church Road side of hall is to be floodlit. Electrician will also carry out PAT testing.
7. Rates Were we to pay rates, they would be £9184, but we get a discretionary rate, which means the amount comes from locally generated rates, but if the BCA were to have Charitable Status, this would come from central government funds. It was suggested we look at applying for charitable status next year, and what the implications would be, remembering that some work had already been done towards this in the run-up to receiving the funds from the Outdoor Bowling Club. BL will discuss the process with D Hendry who had started the paprerwork.
8. **Treasurer’s Report.** JC informed the committee that the bank balance stood at £9923, from which some outstanding bills and Convenor’s pay have yet to come. Hall computer again played up and Inverness Computers fixed it for £60. Some weekends there are 3 functions per day bringing revenue, but also entailing more hours of cleaning.

Committee agreed to transfer £3,000 to the Contingency Fund.

1. **Hall Wall Upgrade.**  BL has sourced another material, about 3mms thick, which he feels might be used for lining the walls up to a height of 4ft, with plasterboard above that. This would cost in the region of £2000.The material comes in 4 and 8 ft heights. MR asked what would happen to the boxed in pipework. BL thought it could be painted the same as the walls. It was decided to try to visit Ardersier’s new hall to see the walls, and to have a “site visit” to the hall here in the New Year, for the committee to have BL’s vision for the walls explained more fully.
2. LR asked what is the exact problem with the dustbin which would cost £270 to replace. BL said it is rusting on the base.
3. **Christmas**. BL has purchased 2 Xmas trees and additional sets of lights for outside the building. It was decided not to purchase a large tree for outside, but to accept one if there should be a repeat offer to community groups. Decorations are up already as 2 Xmas Fayres are soon to take place in hall
4. **Complaint** A complaint has been received that children can climb on to the cupboards in the large hall. MR had printed and laminated signs to say children are not allowed to do so, and these will be displayed. A Risk Assessment will be carried out and mention of such risks will be incorporated into let agreements for parties etc. BL feels strongly that any risk should be eliminated if at all possible and the committee will look at ways of making this area safer. There is the potential to put a false frontage above the cupboards, or a wooden fillet along the edges to prevent children getting a foothold.
5. **AOCB.**

MR said Balloch Fundraising Group is proposing a fete for June 2015, which should involve as many villagers as possible. The committee was asked to consider how the hall could be used to enhance this event.

MR also wonders if the BCA would consider hosting a Xmas Dinner and entertainment for the older members of the community in 2015.

These 2 ideas will be considered in due course.

1. **Date of next meeting** – to be advised.