**The Sandison Hall**

**St Fillans**

**Minutes of Sandison Hall AGM**

**Date 26 February 2021**

Due to the present Covid-19 restrictions this AGM was held via Zoom and hosted by Johnston Brown.

**Present**: Jim Brierley (Chair), Johnston Brown (Treasurer), Trish Forrester (Secretary), Cathy Moncrieff, Russell Cunningham, Stewart Gavigan, Pamela McDowell and Rev. Craig Dobney

**Apologies:** No apologies were received

**Minutes of meeting on 28th February 2020:**  Minutes proposed as a true record by Stewart Gavigan and seconded by Richard Graham.

**Matters Arising:** The planned maintenance of the car park has not been carried out as due to Covid the Hall has remained closed since March 2020. As soon as restrictions are lifted the works will be carried out.

**Chairman’s Report:** Jim Brierley presented his report.

This will be the first time in the 126 years of the hall’s existence that our meeting will not take place within the hall. As most of you are aware due to the pandemic we have been closed since March last year - and at present have received no indications from the authorities as to when restrictions will be lifted.

Prior to lockdown the hall was being used by The St Fillans Scottish Country Dance Club, St Fillans Music Circle and Pamela’s Yoga Group - but sadly the planned festivities for Hogmanay, the Burns Supper and Sally’s 90th birthday celebration had to be cancelled, resulting in approximately a two thirds reduction in rental income.

We have however recently received notification from Perth & Kinross asking if we would allow the hall to be used in May as a polling station, for the Holyrood Elections - so at least we can look forward to some revenue. - My own feelings are that if this election takes place, the authorities will find it almost impossible to restrict the reopening of village halls.

Our Hall Bookings Secretary Russell Cunningham has already provisionally booked the hall out for a private function and the bi-annual Burns Supper, and hopefully the festive committee or Crazy Gang will be able to put on an extravaganza for New Year.

After fourteen years chairing our meetings Sally Watson regrettably resigned as a trustee and Chair in June. Over the years she has guided us through many upgrades and changes, and her advice and support will be greatly missed. I take this opportunity to thank her, not only on behalf of the hall committee but also the whole village for all she contributed over these many years.

While we are on the subject of thanks, the hall could not survive without the assistance and input of the trustees and committee members - in particular Johnston, Trish, Russell and Stewart deserve a round of applause.

Traditionally the Minister of the Parish Church has been a Trustee and so we welcome the Rev Craig Dobney to our happy band and look forward to his input for many years to come.

One of the things we had to do during lockdown, was to renew our entertainment licence, which we were reluctant to do, but were advised by P & K that we had to pay up. Having submitted the paperwork, they managed to lose it but not the enclosed cheque. We then resubmitted the paperwork and at the same time increased the hall capacity from 80 to 100 per function.

Lastly, I noted that at the last Community Council Meeting it was reported that the hall was no longer fit for purpose, perhaps giving the impression to newcomers that the building was in a state of disrepair. This is far from the truth, whilst on a small number of occasions we cannot accommodate the increasing numbers; the hall is, thanks to the efforts of the Trustees and Committee members, in an excellent state of repair.

Our main concern when we reopen should be to encourage new users, and hopefully welcoming back the old regulars. The hall is here for the use of everyone, so please if you can - make use of it.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Johnston Brown presented his report.

The accounts have been circulated in advance through the Community Council circulation list and on the Village website.

The year’s activities have already been described by the Chairman.

The financial position of the Hall deteriorated during 2020 with overall income exceeding expenditure by £902.

They key aspects of the finances as follows:

1. Grants

The usual administration Grant of £250 was received from Perth & Kinross Council, and the Ladies Lunch Club donated £415 from its funds as it ceased to operate. They requested that £200 of this be held in a restricted account to act as a start-up should any equivalent venture be started by Villagers.

1. Hall Rental

Rental income for 2020 amounted to £1,030 and comprised:

Dancers £160

Music circle £240

Yoga £580

Sundry other events £500

The rents received were significantly reduced on previous years due to the Hall being closed from late March due to Covid-19.

1. Members’ subscriptions and donations

Thanks are hereby given to the 91 Villagers who “renewed” their membership of the Hall and for the generous support in the form of additional donations

1. Gift Aid

Gift Aid in respect of 2020 was not applied for until after the 2020 financial year. £365 has now been received and will form part of the income for 2021.

1. Expenses

Expenses were as set out in the accounts. £643 was the cost of rectifying the “earthing” problem with the electrics discovered when the system was being tested for insurance purposes. £72 was for the annual fire equipment maintenance and the rest was for minor upkeep. Whilst the Hall was not being used, the Committee agreed that the heater in the entrance hall should continue to be kept on, but at a reduced heat. The monthly charges have been reduced and at the year-end there was a surplus on the account with Scottish Power. The cold spell at the beginning of 2021 will have reduced that surplus considerably. Meter readings are taken each month end so that a record is available of heating costs used on a monthly basis.

1. Cash balances

Cash balances were £4,272 at RBS and £5,686 at Scottish Widows.

**AOB:** There was no other business

**Date of next meeting:** The next AGM will be held in February 2022

Trish Forrester

Secretary Sandison Hall Committee