



ARDERSIER WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Date	8 th August 2013
Held	Old School Hall
Present	Eleanor Ross(ER AWMH), John Ross(JR CC), Sharon Clarke (SC), Jason Clarke (JC AWMH), Grant Stewart(GS AWMH),Sheila Hardie (SH Church), Isabel Fraser (IF Senior Citizens), Lorna Morrison (LM Ardersier Boat Club), Pamela Clark-Dickson (PCD ABC/JAPES/SAPES), Dawn Mackenzie (DM ABC/JAPES/SAPES Youth Club), Mary Douglas (MD SC), Alan Jones (AJ)
Apologies	Roddy Balfour (local councillor)

Agenda item: Welcome

- ER welcomed everyone and explained the reason for calling the meeting. The Phase 1 hall renovation is on schedule with a tentative completion date of 31/10/13 and stressed how important it is to get as many groups, clubs and organisations together and utilise it. By inviting other representatives, it was an opportunity to discuss their needs and be completely open about how the Old School Hall could be adapted without conflict or overlap with the Memorial Hall.
She introduced Alan Jones of Alan Jones Associates who has been instrumental in gaining funding for the hall and other communities around Scotland.

Agenda item: Background

- AJ gave his background and experience then proceeded to explain in detail how funds were obtained from Leader (Highland Council/EU), Biffa for the floor and Climate Challenge Fund (Keep Scotland Beautiful) for insulation. It was decided to separate the rebuild into two phases due to the total amount of available funding.
- By employing a quantity surveyor and working alongside the architect AJ applied to Community Spaces for a further £250,000 but was unsuccessful due to concerns of the Old School Hall as an asset as well as the amount of work required to renovate the War Memorial hall. As Community Spaces Scotland's budget was limited to £250k the Committee is now applying to the Big Lottery Growing Community Assets as the hall is classed as an asset and with much larger funds allowing for the "ultimate wish list" for phase 2. A Stage 1 application was submitted to Growing Community Assets and they approved this along with a series of recommendations that they feel are required before a Stage 2 is considered.
- The Big Lottery advised this should include a robust business plan, a Development Strategy for both the Old School Hall and the War Memorial Hall to demonstrate there was no duplication between both buildings uses, that there would be no duplication/competition with other locally based facilities and there should be continuous community consultation and engagement throughout the project life including surveys and public events. As this is a major undertaking the Committee has applied for development funding offered by Big Lottery.

- The Lottery also suggested they would encourage the Hall Committee to ask Big Lottery to fund a post for more than a year to ensure the new redeveloped facility has the best chance of operating successfully in the first few years as a business and market the buildings and the village to its full potential.
- The meeting was open to the floor for queries, concerns and suggestions.

Agenda item: Feedback and Suggestions

- PCD expressed concern with the library as the plans for phase 2 showed “community facilities” and what did that mean exactly. ER explained the use for that part was not set in stone and was an option.
- LM wanted to know about the library and felt that an evening opening would see more use and benefit simply because people are working during the day. AJ suggested this could be on the wish list as someone can be employed under the terms of the Big Lottery funding albeit for a year possibly two.
- LM has had considerable experience with stage setups around Scotland and noticed that access (from the plans provided by architect) could be awkward to equipment in and out. It was noted that double doors could be installed in phase 2. **Action: GS**
- JR was concerned about acoustics and LM/DM suggested contacting Limelights and Eden Court for specialist advice. **Action: GS**
- General discussion about how other groups like Brownies use the school as is it free and night classes end up in Nairn.
- AJ suggested setting up a timetable of a week/month/year so that clubs that wish to return or start e.g. climbing wall, karate so would highlight the most convenient time and from there slots can be filled creating consistency.
- LM discussed the possibilities of the Old School Hall for the Ardersier Boat Club. If access could be improved then it would allow the skiff(s) to be made in relative comfort compared to the present setup in a car port. This led on to sectioning the OSH into community workshops like metal/wood working, “men shed”, gardening and crafts. If the library was moved to the AWMH and converted to a cafe it may encourage tourists to stop and view a gallery/crafts/exhibition. There is interest in more water sports if the facilities were available.
- It was agreed that there is huge potential to involve a range of water based sports in discussions about their needs, workshop space, storage etc and it was agreed to call a meeting of these people in the near future to discuss these options and opportunities. Such uses would be complimentary and not in any way duplicate the War Memorial Halls’ activities.
- SH stated that the Church members are most keen to use the hall for their Xmas party this year but there is concern over the state of the kitchen. ER informed them that it will be deep cleaned and freshened up while the painting in the rest of the hall is being done. SH said the Church might use the Hall for main events up to 6 times a year. **Action:AWMH 23/11/13**
- The Senior Citizens also declared that their Xmas party could use the hall.
- JR enquired when phase 2 would start. AJ suggested Mar 2014 at best. This highlighted the fact we could regain interest and use of the hall only to close it down again for the next phase (health and safety).
- General discussion on getting the word around. Not everyone uses social media/internet so a newsletter (similar to Chatterbox) to be compiled or to join in with the churches’ newsletter as it is reasonably well distributed. The building of a notice board just outside the OSH would be ideal since the Mary’s Flowers building will be converted into a Nisa shop , the recycling area is close by and even putting a poster in the chip van would draw locals’

attention to the project creating more awareness of what the groups in the village are doing or want to promote. **Action: AWMH/GS**

- ER thanked everyone for attending and their input.

Meeting closed at 20.30pm