

## **BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BCA)**

### **Note of the "Hall & General" Meeting held on Monday 12 November at 7.15pm in the Community Hall**

**Present:** Laura Cunningham, Chair (Parent Council and SRI); Stacey Stewart, Treasurer (Scout Group); May Lothian (Church Guild); Mhairi McKenna (Community Council and Ballantrae Trust); Meg Peacock (Country Dancers); Linden Hunt (Horticultural Society); Pat Allsop and Betty Nelson (RVS); Lynn Nield (Hall Bookings Secretary); John Thorburn (visitor); Andy McAlpine, Secretary (Ballantrae Trust).

**Apologies:** Jessie Brown (Church Guild) and Cathy Lopez (Youth Club)

**Note of the meeting held on 10 May:** This was approved. Proposed by Lynn and Seconded by Linden.

#### **Matters arising:**

**Hall lease:** Andy reported that further enquiries of solicitors still had not unearthed a copy. He proposed this be removed from the agenda. This was agreed.

**Two new circular tables:** The two new circular tables will be purchased after the school moves out of the buffet room.

**Table and chairs loan scheme:** Laura reported the new scheme is working well but a request to borrow a large number of chairs and tables (requiring a hefty deposit under the new arrangements) suggests there should be some flexibility built in. It was agreed in situations like this Laura should exercise her discretion.

#### **School / Hall Update:**

**School usage:** The primary school children will continue to be bussed to Girvan until the Easter break. Thereafter they will move back into the school along with the Early Years children. Existing arrangements regarding hall use by the community will continue until then. Groups can access the kitchen with the prior approval of Roy / Cathy when Early Years are not using it.

Adverse comment has been made about the way the Early Years have left the kitchen. Groups are reminded that access to the kitchen is currently at the discretion of the school.

Laura decided not to pursue the issue of lost income for the BCA with SAC because no group has been deprived of the use of the hall as a result of school usage. The Patchwork Group has stopped meeting in Ballantrae but that is because the majority of their members come from elsewhere.

**New blinds:** When the new windows were being put in there was discussion with SAC about replacing the existing blinds - most of which were broken - with blackout blinds. Theatre and cinema productions require blackout and the old blinds were not fit for purpose. SAC were only prepared to replace like for like. Laura intimated that she is planning to seek grant funding in February from Ballantrae Community Fund for blackout blinds. She will get three quotes.

**Roy's new office:** Roy's new line manager wants him to have an office rather than sit in the hallway. The small front room to the left of the entrance has been converted into an office for him. Chris the Trust's Development Officer will share this with him once a week. As the Trust is affiliated to the BCA the use of the office will be covered by their Affiliation Fee.

**Finance and Insurance issues:** Stacey has now taken over from Linden. Stacey reported that income from the Gala had been £2599.80 with reimbursement of £650 from SAC for Gala stalls still to be added to that figure. Gala expenditure totalled £2,005. Fireworks expenditure was £1,200 with donations totalling £150. Hall insurance of £430.29 still has to come out of the accounts. There has been no income from Affiliation Fees. At 12 November Stacey reported that BCA funds stand at £2,377.28.

**Affiliation Fees:** Laura had been unsuccessful in tracking down a copy of the existing Affiliation Fees document. She asked Colmonell and they couldn't produce one either. Following discussion with Andy, Stacey and Lynn she tabled a draft for discussion. There are currently two rates - £80 and £40. We debated whether, in future, there should be two rates or one. We agreed:

- Everyone should pay the same Affiliation Fee of £40
- That fee is payable on 1 February each year and MUST be paid by the end of February. Affiliation runs from 1 February to 31 January the following year
- Those Affiliated will pay nothing for their weekly / monthly meetings but will pay £5 per hour for fund-raising events
- Non Affiliated Groups / individuals will pay £10 per hour (including councillors', MPs and MSP surgeries)
- All Affiliated Groups should take a stall at Gala Day. If not, they should make a financial donation equivalent to the cost of a stall or donate a raffle prize to the same value

**Action:** Laura to produce a revised Affiliation Fee document for agreement at the January meeting

**Hall Booking issues:** Lynn raised the issue of a request she had received to use the hall for an hour on a Saturday. Although she dealt with this request and offered a Friday instead such a booking could have affected Roy's hours and meant he was unavailable on another day of the week. It was agreed issues like this should be dealt with by Lynn and Laura on a case by case basis.

Lynn asked whether - in the light of what was said about school usage she should now take bookings for the hall from Easter onwards. It was suggested she waits until after Christmas although it could be looked at on a case by case basis by Lynn and Laura.

Everyone was reminded to use the hall booking forms of events which are available from Roy.

**Hall Christmas Tree:** The tree cannot be situated in the usual place. Laura has agreed another outside location with the school and she is in the process of getting a tree.

**Events update:** A Craft Fair will be held on 24 November. Fourteen tables had been booked to date. Santa will be there from 2pm-4pm. Andy has prepared a press release and Laura has organised the posters. The Children's Christmas Party will be on 15 December. Ballantrae Community Council / Carrick Futures Small Grant Scheme provided funding. A Quiz Night is being considered for after Christmas. Gala Day will be on Saturday 6 July with a dance in the evening. The same band as was due to play last year (when the dance was cancelled) have been booked again. They wouldn't take any money last year for the cancellation.

**Diary of Village Events:** Andy had circulated the diary and asked groups to continue to update it as dates are fixed. It is used for the noticeboard, the village website and Ballantrae News. An update will be produced on 1 December. Amendments before then to [andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com) would be appreciated.

**Replacement Fridge:** One of the fridges in the kitchen isn't working. It was agreed to purchase a new one.

**Action:** Laura and Stacey to arrange for the purchase of a new fridge

**The Parent Council** is organising a Fashion Show in Girvan on 14 November. Tickets are available from Laura.

**Farmers' Market:** Andy wants to have a discussion with Alex Sharpe of Ayrshire Stall Hire and Craigmains who now jointly run Farmers' Markets on the second Sunday May-September (except June when it's the Festival of Food and Drink) about revitalising and re-branding to a "Ballantrae Market" - still with food stalls but also incorporating crafts and other stalls from Ballantrae and the surrounding area. This would provide an opportunity for local groups to raise funds and

make the market look busier and more vibrant. He wanted to ensure there was no resistance to the idea - which there wasn't. He will raise the issue at the Trust Board meeting due to be held shortly and if they are also supportive he will initiate discussions and then issue guidance on how groups can become involved.

**Resignation:** Andy intimated that he intends to stand down as Secretary at the AGM to concentrate on his role as Chairman of The Ballantrae Trust. John Thorburn has volunteered to take on the role of BCA Secretary.

**Date and Time of the next meeting:** Monday 14 January at 7.15pm.