

**Minutes of COMMITTEE MEETING held online by ZOOM on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 6.30pm**

**1. WELCOME**

Present :- Alec Mutch, Geoff Potter, John Ruickbie, Nick Simpson, Mike Day, Errol Levings, David Line, Peter Lawrence, Douglas Stewart

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Kelman, Cliff Sim, Richard Comfort

Geoff Potter (GP) welcomed everyone to the online meeting. The Zoom meeting was hosted by GP with prior e-mail invitations sent to all the Committee.

GP informed the Committee that the Zoom meeting was limited to 40 minutes but a new Zoom meeting could be arranged immediately after this meeting if that was necessary.

**2. MARYBURGH OLD SCHOOL BUILDING**

Alec Mutch (AM) gave updated news about Maryburgh Old Primary School.

Yesterday the CAT (Community Asset Transfer) officials recommended and the Highland Council's Committee subsequently approved the acquisition of the old school by the MMS (Maryburgh Mens Shed) for £1.

Alec Mutch and Cliff Sim are on the Committee of the MMS along with Maryburgh residents involved with the Men's Shed and Maryburgh Matters.

A grant of £16+k - a Community Benefit Fund arising from the adjacent house building has been allocated to MMS. This fund would be used to remedy various faults with the building eg leaks, windows etc.

A forthcoming meeting would be used to persuade the Maryburgh Community Council to use this building for their future meetings.

A discussion with the Architect - Lennox Boyd - had revealed that Planning approval for a change of use may not be required. It was suggested that MMS be advised that involving Lennox Boyd may help progress any approvals for only a small fee and may have the benefit of avoiding seeking formal approvals if these were unnecessary. Access to the building may be some time away and may be 2022. The legal transfer would in any case be 3 – 4 months.

Conveyancing would be carried out by Middleton, Ross and Arnott at no charge. However the MMS would have to pay the Highland Council's legal fees.

A floor plan of the school has been circulated to the Committee.

General discussion revolved around a HVAC system, extraction, electricity supply, fire alarms, fire exits, room layouts etc. Some of these items would likely be carried out by MMS but HWC input would be made to their decisions by our HWC members (AM and CS) who are on their Committee.

**3. CHANGE OF VENUE FOR HWC?**

Following the confirmation of a successful bid for the CAT then the HWC would now hold an EGM to consider and confirm from all members whether they wished to transfer the Club meetings to these premises or not.

An EGM was agreed by all the Committee. Because of the current restrictions this meeting would take place online by Zoom. In order that all members could participate it was decided that members would be able to vote by returning a signed letter. The date for the EGM was set at 25<sup>th</sup> March to allow for a clear 3 weeks notice.

A letter which was drafted and approved by the whole Committee - which recommended a change of venue for Club meetings - would be e-mailed and posted to all members. It was proposed that an accompanying letter which gave options for attending the Zoom meeting and the voting options would also be sent out. Two items would also be put forward for all member's approval at the EGM. These were confirmation of the current 12 Committee Members which was desirable in the absence

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of a normal AGM this year . Also it was proposed that there be the incorporation of an extra paragraph in the Club's Constitution which would allow all further Club meetings to be attended in person or online at a virtual meeting - with members able to indicate their wishes - to be submitted by signed letter.

Concerns about an unclear vote were expressed and to avoid this it would be made clear that any member could contact GP or AM for any further information.

### **4. Website Management**

AM explained that the website was managed by Phil Moore and an initial agreement was proposed that Phil's annual membership fee be waived this year in recognition of the work he carried out managing the website. Errol Levings proposed and Peter Lawrence seconded a proposal that - while ever Phil was the website manager then his membership fee would be waived. All the Committee agreed.

### **5. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was proposed for 18<sup>th</sup> March followed by the EGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### **6. AOCB**

None

### **7. END OF MEETING**

The meeting was terminated by Zoom after 40 minutes but it was restarted again immediately. Most members rejoined briefly by clicking on the e-mailed link again – thanks to all for the smooth running of this Zoom meeting.