

# Craignure Village Hall & Community Centre

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26th March 2023 1pm

Craignure Village Hall & Community Centre

In attendance:- Susan Morrissy (Chair) SM, Fiona Langton (Treasurer) FL, Andrew Oldacre AO, Diana Oldacre DO, Richard Gower RG, Jen Swift JS, Karen Adkinson KA, Peter Morrissy (Caretaker) PM

Apologies:- Jill Muchall

1. SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members of the community for their attendance.
2. Minutes - First AGM since June 2019. RG proposed the Minutes and seconded by AO.
3. Matters Arising – there were no Matters Arising
4. Chair Report SM

Following the restrictions introduced nationwide because of the COVID pandemic CVH was closed from March 2020 until it re-opened tentatively in May 2021. Slowly, slowly Craignure Village Hall has tried to recover itself from the challenges faced by so many other communities and businesses.

During 2021, the hall committee saw the Chair and Secretary resign which left just 4 members of the Committee: - Fiona Langton as the Treasurer, Richard Gower, Diana & Andy Oldacre to soldier on with the excellent support of Sue Morley (Book keeper) and Peter Morrissy (as the Caretaker)

So, before I continue with this Report, I really must say a huge thank you from everyone in the Community for keeping the hall functioning as you did.

## Committee Members

I have previously been a committee member here at the hall but left in 2018 to concentrate on other matters. Last year I began to feel that I could possibly help and so I approached the Committee and in January found myself as the Chair and I'm very grateful for the confidence placed in me by the Committee and I will do all I can to help make CVH the success it has been in the past.

Joining me as new Committee members we have Jen Swift who you all know as the Crew Manager for the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service at Craignure Fire Station. Jen is a regular user of the hall

Then we have Jill Muchall who lives in Lochdon with her husband Gordon and came to Mull in 2019. Jill is unable to join us today as she is off island but her husband Gordon is here who I'm sure many of you already know. Jill is a regular user of the hall

And we have Karen Adkinson, also from Lochdon and a regular user of the hall who also came to live on Mull in 2019 with her husband Bob.

Although not a committee member we must say a thank you to a great supporter Helen Pegg who is our Facebook Guru, publishing details of events on our Facebook page.

So, from 4 Committee members we now have 8 but still space for more members and supporters. We need a Deputy Chair, Secretary and Events organiser – many hands make light work as they say.

## **New name**

Moving forward we would like to rebrand the hall with a new name to reflect how we perceive the place of the hall in the Community. Instead of simply Craignure Village Hall we will now be known as Craignure Village Hall & Community Centre.

## **Hall Events**

During the Pandemic and under strict controls the hall was used by the NHS for COVID and flu vaccinations.

It was only in May 2021 that users began to slowly return.

Following the Christmas Tree & Hall decorating event, the first Producers Market since December 2019 was held as a Christmas Producer Market at the end of November 2022 and was a huge success with support from Producers, residents and visitors. Dates for 2023 have already been set and the first market of 2023 will be held on 9th April Easter Sunday and tables are already being booked.

The children from Lochdon school held their fabulous Christmas Show Sheik, Rattle and Roll in December which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

In January, the first New Year Ceilidh since January 2020 was held here in the hall with local band Treshnish and huge thanks go to Craignure Bay Community Group for organising the event.

In February & March Warm Places Lunch Events were held here as well as other venues around the island. These free events were open to all allowing members of the community to come together to have a free bowl of soup and some company. Generously supported financially by MICT through the Waterfall Fund.

Another first for the hall was the Potato and Seed Swap Day. A great success which was very much supported and sure to be repeated.

Yesterday Karelia House returned for the first time in over 3 years. Always a popular event and residents travelled from all over Mull and Iona to buy fabric, wool, patterns and sewing/knitting accessories.

## **Equipment**

New equipment for the hall is a microwave in the kitchen and the hall now has free Wi-Fi for hall users. Admittedly the speed isn't great but it will certainly be helpful to Producers who will be able to accept card payments on Market Days.

## **User Groups**

In addition to regular use by Lochdon School gym club, the Mull and Iona Pipe band, Tai Chi, Mull Dancers, Bowls, the Bird Club, Isle of Mull Woodturners, Craft Group, Line Dancers and U3A Meetings, we now have a new user Tracey's Fitsteps Class which began in January. Tracey and her husband Peter are the owners of Craignure Spar.

The hall has also been used for Yoga classes and Badminton and continues to be used for voting in local and national elections, election hustings, dances for Farmers and also meetings by Mull Otter Group.

In addition, the hall has been used by Mull Music Makers, Zumba, Mums n Toddler groups, Kids Play, Exercise Classes, Mull Gaelic Choir, Mendelssohn on Mull, Music Workshops, Ladies evenings, Mull & Iona BeeKeepers, Weddings, Birthday Parties, Baby Showers and even Dog & Puppy training.

## **Financial Support**

Support for the hall continues to return with a successful application to the Waterfall Heating Fund of £500 which has allowed us to decrease the cost of heating the hall.

Also, we have very recently been successful in our application to the Calmac Community Fund who have awarded us £2000 to help towards our running costs for the next 12 months.

But, we do need to be self-sufficient and so we as a group need to look to attract more users and user groups to the hall.

## Survey

To this end we have produced a survey which was hand delivered by committee members and supporters from Garmony to Lochbuie. The survey is open to all residents of Mull, Iona, Ulva and surrounding areas.

Copies can be downloaded from the hall website and returned to various places in Craignure or emailed to the hall. We also have some here today if anyone would like to complete a survey.

We are asking the Community for their views and what activities etc they want from their hall. The survey runs until the end of March and hopefully we will get a good response and some good ideas to move forward.

## Maintenance Work

Maintenance and work needed to improve the hall is key to attracting more users. For many years we have had a problem with the Velux windows, some of which leak depending on wind and rain direction. This has resulted in damage to the walls and flooring. We now have use of scaffolding and a cherry picker to allow a safe inspection of the Velux windows.

We are also liaising with a local electrician to identify a way forward with our lighting and heating which is the original lighting and heating from when the hall was built 25 years ago.

We are also working with MICT to undertake a community energy feasibility study to identify its suitability for energy efficiency, generation, and low carbon transport improvements. Looking forward we need to improve our energy efficiency.

We want to work with Craignure Bay Community Group to improve facilities in Craignure.

With your support we can make Craignure Village Hall & Community Centre a great success once again.

### 5. Treasurer Report FL

Firstly, a huge thank you must go to Sue Morley for all her hard work behind the scenes in ensuring all the financial aspects of running the Craignure Village Hall are carried out.

Along with many other village or community halls CVH suffered significant financial impact as a result of Covid 19 as the hall had to remain shut during lockdown, not reopening until the spring of 2021. In the autumn of 2020 CVH was awarded a substantial Covid Grant of £25,000 from Argyll & Bute Council to help us survive this challenging period and going forward with the uncertainties about when hall users would return.

At the year ending 31st January 2023 CVH had a bank balance of £27,506. Adjusted for debtors - total assets of £28,602.

Although the income from hall activities for the year 2022/23 rose to £7,022 from £4,674 the previous year post covid - the hall still made an overall loss of £2,800.

A slight improvement on the loss of £3,375 sustained in the year 2021/22.

On a positive note as Sue has already mentioned we have recently been awarded a grant of £500 from the Waterfall Fund to help reduce heating costs. This has been appreciated by our hall users as heating the large hall in winter time added greatly to the cost of using the hall.

We have also received an award of £2000 from Calmac Community Fund to help with our running costs for the coming year.

### 6. Election of Members SM

SM addressed the Committee and asked if any members wished to stand down. RG said he would like to stand down. RG has been a Committee member for 9 years and SM thanked him on behalf of the Committee and the Community for his support and work over the last 9 years.

## 7. Any Other Business

SM thanked everyone for their attendance and asked if anyone had any questions or matters to raise. Susan Ringwood offered to help in analysing events to pinpoint which ones were more successfully financially. Ray Canham offered to help when he could to support the hall rather than a committee member. Ceilidhs during season were suggested. The matter of the Committee room usage was raised which is currently occupied by Isle of Mull Woodturners (IOMWT). Initially unrestricted use of one room then restricted use of second committee room with the understanding they would vacate and not use the first committee room during events in the second committee room. SM and FL had a meeting with IOMWT earlier this year. The Committee was asked if they would publish the results of the Survey and SM agreed they would. It was suggested that perhaps the three Craignure community groups – Torosay Church, Craignure Bay Community Group and CVH had a joint meeting occasionally. The Committee agreed this was an excellent idea. The Committee were asked how bookings are secured and it was explained the Caretaker managed all bookings and can be contacted via email [caretaker@craignurevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:caretaker@craignurevillagehall.org.uk) The Committee were asked about the cost of electricity and if we had a contract. The Committee confirmed we are locked into a contract until later this year.

A comment from the floor suggested that historically the building of An Roth was forecast to lead to revenue problems for the hall as there was too much space available for rent with few users. The hall may never actually be fully viable despite the best efforts and the Committee may need to chase grants to survive. The use of village halls is decreasing locally and nationally.

The Committee were asked about car boot / table top sales as they had been held elsewhere on the island in the last year. Committee confirmed these had been held in the past at the hall but had not been well supported. The Committee agreed to contact other village hall committees to see what other events had been successful. The Committee were asked how User Groups were funded in relation to their use of the hall. It was explained that each User Group was responsible for covering their own costs for the hall hire