

ELPHIN, LEDMORE AND KNOCKAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Minutes of meeting held Friday 1st October at 17.00

Venue Fir Chlis, 399 Elphin.

Chair: Stuart Charlton

Minutes: Wendy Wright

Present: Stuart Charlton, Helen McQueen, Kate Mc Sweeney, Sian Curley, Wendy Wright.

Apologies: Roddy Houldsworth, John Venters.

REVIEW OF CHICKEN FUN DAY

Everyone agreed the Chicken Fun Day was a great success. The final total raised was £945.

We discussed the day and all agreed the following points:

- 1) A loudhailer would have been very useful. Stuart will price one up for next year.
- 2) The prize giving was thought to be a bit of a muddle. We must make sure:
 - All entries for competitions are clearly labelled with names, school and other relevant details.
 - All prizes are allocated and perhaps wrapped before the event.
 - A procedure for awarding prizes would save some confusion. The idea of a prize room was suggested. A winner could be given a printed form or ticket to take and claim their prize.
 - We must have a system to note names of prize winners.
 - Judges must know how many prizes are to be awarded and must be clear who has won a category. This will avoid running out of prizes if many entrants are highly commended.
- 3) We should have 1st, 2nd and 3rd signs for the baking competition.
- 4) The timing of the day i.e. the weekend after Loopallu was agreed to be good, providing an enjoyable family day out after a fairly adult orientated Loopallu.
- 5) We need to be more organised selling raffle tickets. Selling via shops was not a success, although Polbain and Achiltibuie stores were very good. Stuart suggested we ask Robert if we could perhaps have a stall at Loopallu next year to sell raffle tickets. We will also all sell tickets ourselves as we wander about our daily business. It was suggested we get raffle tickets printed to avoid confusion re books and colours.
- 6) The marquee worked very well, providing shelter if needed from the weather and a dry place for the chickens. We would like to use it again next year.
- 7) Sian suggested we display the chickens taking part in the race before the race with details of blood lines etc.

8) Kate is keen to involve ducks next year to appeal to a wider group of people.

9) Ideas to include next year were

- An egg stall selling local eggs.
- Pet shop stand- Pets at Home might be interested.
- As well as the chicken house stand, sell and or display chicken feeders, drinkers etc.
- A stall selling chicken themed decorations, jugs etc. The chicken shop in Dornoch might be interested in doing this.
- A tombola.
- Chicken cooking demonstration.
- A Chicken BBQ, we should have some cooking facilities by then!

10) The idea of using the marquee for a caley in the evening was suggested as it seemed a shame not to! We would need to apply for an occasional license and have a licensee to run the bar. We would need to arrange buses from Ullapool and Lochinver.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Dates were discussed but not decided on; we need to avoid clashing with other events. Refreshments could be mulled wine, non-alcoholic mulled fruit juice/wine and mince pies.

Kate suggested we have a Father Christmas. Helen volunteered Steve.

Sian will organise borrowing trestle tables from the church in Achiltibuie.

We could charge stall holders £10 or £15 per stall.

We will ask Susan if the Gaelic Choir would be willing and able to sing at the fair.

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER FOR THE SCHOOL

This would probably be better held at the Alt as we have no cooking facilities at the school.

A menu of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, neeps and tatties and cheese and biscuits was suggested.

We could organise music and a piper.

A ticket price of £25 was suggested. Mike needs to be consulted!

Several members of the committee volunteered to help on the night.

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE SCHOOL

George Farlow is concerned that school children in Lochinver have no entertainment facilities and wondered if we could hold something for them on Friday evenings. The school bus could drop them off on its way past and funding could be available for the bus to return and collect them later. We could have a games session (pool, darts etc) for them.

A suggestion was made that we try to keep heating costs down by having multiple uses of the building on one day.

BROADBAND

Brendan has been investigating the possibility of accessing funding to improve broadband reception and has emailed the village to update everyone. There is a high level of dissatisfaction with both the speed and the inconsistent availability of broadband in the village. Improving broadband would be very expensive. BT would have to upgrade the exchange (costing around £250,000) and the masts may need to be upgraded. The general opinion is that Avanti do not seem to acknowledge complaints about the service they provide. We will ask Bryan if he will keep a log of phone calls to Avanti complaining about the service for a specific time period. Residents will be asked to let Brian know when they phone Avanti to complain. This will hopefully provide us with evidence of poor quality service.

ASSYNT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The council would like a member of the ELKCAL committee to join the council to represent Elphin. After discussion, no one felt they could take this on due to work commitments etc. We discussed the possibility of members of the ELKCAL committee sharing this, taking turns to attend depending on other commitments.

Meeting concluded at 7pm.