

Portsonachan Village Hall
May 26th 2026 7pm
Minutes

Present: Janet Buchanan, Sandra Brodie, Catriona O'Keefe, Rowena Parnell, Fiona Macpherson, Audrey McBreaty,

Apologies: Perri Hopkinson, Anne Rae, Gareth Young, Gilly Payne

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of meeting on 7th April was approved. Proposed by Fiona Macpherson and seconded by Sandra Brodie.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1 Water testing - results of the microbiological examination is satisfactory but the chemical/metal examine action has failed. However, this does not affect health and is safe to drink. Therefore, we will not be seeking a re-test.
- 2.2 Fiona advised about Easy Fundraising and it was agreed to refer this to the Hall Fundraising group for consideration. Action: Janet to progress
- 2.3 Lessons from Daffodil Tea/Annual BBQ: Having separate people to look after food and bar on the day helps
- 2.4 Fiona had previously offered to donate an under-counter freezer to the Hall. Arrangements will be made to bring this down to the Hall. Action: Fiona to liaise with Martin O'Keefe for help. Robert Wilson has provided a quote for joinery work. An application will be made to cover the work to try and get half from An Suidhe small grants and half from SLACC.

3. Hall Policies

Hall Policies on Safeguarding, Data Protection and Finance Control are up on the Orchy and Awe website - <https://orchyandawe.co.uk/hall-policies-and-statements/>

4. Hall Project Update and Funding

Janet, Catriona and Fiona have met with the architects and structural engineers. They have been asked to take forward the application for the building warrant as we now have sufficient funds to progress (£20k from Green Power; £5,300 from An Suidhe and £5k from SLACC).

Tommy McQuade has been asked to look at how the project can be done in stages and to provide costings. While there is a benefit in the project going forward in one stage as the project will be less susceptible to inflation, it is prudent to consider a staged approach.

Janet attended the SSEN Community Benefit Funding webinar. There is £220k per year for applications for revenue and capital for single or multi-year projects. Janet will forward the information to all.

Janet suggested that the Funding Group begins to explore how to proceed. Funding Group members are Janet, Audrey, Paul and Lynne. Fiona was asked to join and Rowena suggested that Gilly might also be asked.

It was agreed a pro-active approach was needed to obtain funds and that inviting funder representatives such as Debbie Heron (Foundation Scotland), Linsay

Chalmers (SSEN) to come to the Hall to familiarise themselves with our aspirations would be helpful. There was also a suggestion to contact the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) of which SLACC is a member to find out if the new build could be VAT exempt. There were also funding sources to be considered such as ACGF, Queen Elizabeth Fund.

Action:

Audrey to get in touch with Aros Hall in Mull to find out how they progressed their refurbishment.

Janet to convene a meeting of the Funding Group to discuss strategies for progressing raising capital and putting in applications.

5. **Company Limited by Guarantee**

It was agreed to explore how to progress with this.

Action: Rowena to contact John Strickland and SLACC members

6. **Village Hall Emergency Resilience Planning**

Gareth sent in an email which was not received on time for this meeting.

Gareth reported that not much has progressed but the Community Council now have a copy of Appin's plan and this is being reviewed against the CC plan and a redraft will be made ahead of the next Council meeting on 10th June.

7. **Orchy and Awe Trust (OAT)**

Development Officers have now been appointed: Mark Burow (17.5 hours) and Sarah Whiteside (6.5hours) It was agreed that the Hall could benefit from having development officer time to assist with progressing the work needed to support the Committee on Hall refurbishment and funding.

Action: Janet to find out about costs from Sue Rawcliffe

8. **Finance**

There was a brief update that due to a range of activities (e.g. rental of hall for the election on May 7th, Daffodil Tea, BBQ, Pub nights) that funds have gone up. A fuller account will be given at a future meeting.

9. **Programme Planning for 2026/7**

In addition to the regular club events, the following was agreed:

June 6th	Bar and games evening with pulled pork and vegetarian option Food: Catriona and Gareth; Bar: David and Sandra will do a stint.
July	Soundings will be taken on June 6th Bar evening whether to proceed with a Bar and games evening in July
August	No additional activity planned

September

5th

Bar and games evening

25th

MacMillan Coffee morning by Lochside Neighbours

Action: Rowena to contact Perri**October**

3rd

Bar and games evening (Cocktails, cheese and charcuterie)

Bowls will begin

Ceilidh dancing to commence Action: Sandra to discuss with

Robert Wilson

November

7th

Bar and Quiz night (possible Quiz masters: Paul and Gareth)

Action: Rowena to liaise with Gareth**December**

5th

Bar and Games night (with Christmas Party Food)

8th

Christmas wreath making session with Craft and Craic - Fiona

Macpherson

?

Christmas Quiz with Lochside Neighbours Action: Rowena to check with Perri**January 2027**

1st

New Year's Day Ceilidh

24th

Burns Lunch Action: Rowena to liaise with Perri**February**

5th

Bar and Games night - with the possible addition of Bingo

12th

Valentine's Quiz (possible Quiz Master: Martin O'Keefe)

March

6th

Bar and Games night

10th

AGM followed by SLACC AGM

19th

Quiz. (Possible quiz masters: Janet Buchanan and Colleen Brown)

?

Possible talk on the boatmen of Loch Awe Action: Catriona to progress**April**

9th

Daffodil Tea Action: Rowena to liaise with Perri

It was agreed once activities and dates were confirmed that a note of that be given to Paul Greaves to note on the Orchy and Awe Community Calendar. Action: Rowena to progress

10. **Loch Awe Photography Competition 2026**

The Hall has been invited to take part and promote this. Action: Audrey to find out about entry and closing dates.

11. **AOB**

11.1 There is an event at Rockfield on Funding Connections, similar to the one ran last year. Date is 16th June from 12-4pm. It was suggested that someone from the Funding Group attends to gather information.

Action: Janet to seek a volunteer from the Funding Group

11.2 Garden Tidy-up. It was agreed that FFF be asked if they could do a garden tidy-up in June and also in September - ahead of the Daffodil Tea. Action: Sandra to ask FFF and also others who might be able to assist e.g. Dave Yates

Date of next meeting which will be on ZOOM

30th June at 7pm. This will be a brief 'touch base' meeting.

Topic: Village Hall Committee meeting

Time: Jun 30, 2026 19:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73074424113?pwd=q4ljx8p9bbykwxeQMXWbKvpsUTfaa7.1>

Meeting chat link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/jc/73074424113>

Meeting ID: 730 7442 4113

Passcode: 7p4Umy