



Newsletter 4, 15 April 2016.

Dear member

This is the 4th in our series of newsletters designed to keep our members up to date with the work being carried out by Rhynie Charitable Trust and to address any issues or queries raised by our members.

As you will be aware, we were unsuccessful with one of our funding applications in regard to the acquisition of the Gordon Arms Hotel. Consequently we reluctantly had to advise the owners, John and Sheila, that we would no longer be able to pursue our interest in the property. As the premises has ceased to function as a business, the value of the property from the perspective of the funders would fall to the market valuation. RCT would, unfortunately, be unable to fund the shortfall from our own resources and cannot therefore proceed further.

With the demise of this project we have been considering what other options may be available to us to provide community spaces. We have recently been approached by the Masons with an offer for the old Congregational Church to be made available for community use and have had discussions in regard to the present state and future usability of the building.. It is currently very under-utilised but is in a poor state of repair, necessitating the expenditure of a considerable sum to bring it up to standard. Following this discussion we have agreed to work with the Masons to determine how much work and expense will be required and to look at how the building could be more useful to the community. We are first proposing to commission a structural survey and feasibility study and are investigating how this can be financed. We will then be able to consider how best to make use of the building.

Further to the above, it also seems that a number of misconceptions have arisen recently in regard to the work of the Trust, and we would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few things.

Firstly, we can confirm that the old Community Hall has been closed to further use for the time being. This is the hall at the rear of the school previously used as a polling station. Aberdeenshire Council will be undertaking a building inspection to establish what needs to be done to bring it up to their health and safety standards and will then decide on further action. The only group still using the hall were the Brownies who have relocated to the School Hall.

Secondly, while 'Fourteen' is a community space, it belongs to the church and is available for hire to groups or individuals for use for meetings and functions. While it is a valued and valuable community space it has its limits. It is not suitable for many community groups which have now dispersed because of lack of facility. Unfortunately it is too small for most group activities and lacks the storage space necessary for many groups (eg. Brownies).

Rhynie Community Facilities Development Charitable Trust
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Next, the position of RCT with regard to the constitution of the Board remains that there has been, to date, two elected Directors and one co-opted Director. This is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Trust Articles and Memorandum (minimum 3). The information supplied to Companies House and Office of the Scottish Charities Registrar we are advised also satisfies their requirements. The co-opted Director, Colin Neesom, will stand for election by the membership at the next AGM and the two above organisations will be notified in due course. We have also now co-opted two additional members to the Board, Colin Mumford (representing the Masons) and Vicki Grant. They will be assisting with the work of the Board.

Lastly, newsletters and other communications will be distributed by email or post depending on the information provided by individual members. We currently have 117 members, 90 of whom have provided email addresses with 29 of these being duplicates where partners have given the same address. Our emailing list therefore has 61 addresses as the mailing software we use does not accept duplicates, and we assume that all members at the same address will see the newsletter. A further 16 members have provided postal addresses and the newsletter will be sent to these by post or hand delivery. Please note, if you do not receive an emailed copy we do not have your email address. We would appreciate any members who have so far not provided an email address to do so, if possible, since this is our preferred communication medium as it is cheaper and quicker.

If you have not received our previous newsletters and would like to see copies of these or if you would like to check that we have your correct email address, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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