**MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BISHOP’S HOUSE, IONA**

**ON THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023 AT 2.30 PM**

1. **Welcome and Opening Words**

In the absence of the Dean, Revd Canon Alan Bennett was elected to chair the meeting and welcomed everyone who were present – Revd Canon Alan Bennett, Anne Abbott, Peter Abbott, Revd Pat Baggaley, Mike Baggaley, Joy Blakeney, Idris Crumlish, Sonya Davidson, Revd Clephane Hume, Sarah Hynd, Toben Lewis, Robbie Maclellan, Yvonne Mills, Sister Pamela, Rev Paul Rider, Revd Nicola Reynolds, Helaine Ross, Revd Joyce Watson.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Avril McQue, Revd Liz Crumlish, Crawford Langley, Margaret Harrison, Evelyn Balfour.

1. **Minutes of AGM held on 28 October 2022**

The Minutes were unanimously accepted by all the members.

1. **Matters Arising**

The annual coffee morning is to resume once more, the council having asked Robbie, who gave his permission. Tea/coffee and scones to be served.

1. **Report on Island Retreats Ltd**

* Cumbrae is closed to residents at the moment but the Cathedral is still open. We have been fortunate that Bishop’s House has been able to pick up from Covid and be up and running again in no time. This is thanks to the staff being treated respectfully and equally by Robbie, with good working conditions.
* Rod Geddes has been recommended to join the Board.
* We gave thanks to Clephane Hume for all the hard work she has done over the years.

1. **Friends’ Website**

Toben confirmed this was up and running and asked for photographs or stories which he could add.

1. **Treasurer’s Report and Statement of Accounts**

This was presented by the Treasurer.

* Matching fund raising donations - our last benefactor gave money to match donations up to £500. Although the fundraising last year did not quite make it, our benefactor still gave the full amount and has agreed to fund match again this year.
* The car fund has been dispensed with and will become the mobility fund.
* The Bank signatories are Yvonne Mills and Clephane Hume in addition to the Treasurer.

The report was accepted unanimously.

1. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Treasurer confirmed that the independent auditor, Robert MacManaway was happy to continue and that although no remuneration was made, a small gift would be given to him.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

* Nicola Reynolds had resigned as secretary last year and Helaine Ross elected to take over as from this AGM. Accordingly she gave the report.
* Nicola Reynolds was thanked for all her work over five years.
* A USB key now holds the Membership Roll information along with a separate copy of the Membership Roll being held on a computer. If something goes amiss with the computer the USB backup will be brought into use and all the information will be re-installed while remembering Data Protection rules.
* Postage is now expensive and members are encouraged to use email. Plus, it is more eco-friendly to not waste paper.
* We have no new members on the Roll, with numbers currently at 182. Please remember to notify the secretary of any changes to circumstances, e.g. change of address or email address.
* All new members have a form to fill in when joining regarding data protection.

1. **Election of Secretary**

Helaine Ross had been elected at the last AGM and this appointment was reaffirmed.

1. **Election of Treasurer**

The treasurer, Toben Lewis, was happy to continue and his reappointment was proposed by Robbie Maclellan and seconded by Clephane Hume.

1. **Election of Friends’ Representatives**

As per the Constitution, three Friends who have been on the Council for more than five years all resigned – Alan Bennett, Val Geddes and Yvonne Mills. In their place Clephane Hume, Sister Pamela and Joyce Watson were voted on unanimously. Following changes to the Constitution to allow for people to serve longer than five years, it was agreed to change members on a rota basis, and Paul Rider said he would be willing to take up duty next year.

1. **Warden’s Report and Wish List**

Robbie reported that the cost of everything has greatly increased. Along with this added expense are the reduced bookings because of the cost of living. Wages, food and energy bills have also risen. However, as many businesses have had a struggle finding staff Robbie has been able to retain the staff and he thanked them for all their hard work.

For the House, Robbie requested a new cordless vacuum, a window cleaning pole, fleecy blankets, interior décor (carpeting in lounge, hall and stairs). This was all passed. Although new beds would not be bought, the legs on the cabin beds would be shortened! Good news for little people.

Robbie also gave an update on the replacement of the roof which Island Retreats Ltd will be financing. Project management costs, for example have risen towards the roof repairs resulting in an increase of more than a third on the costs first quoted. It is expected the work will start next year.

1. **Dates of Friends’ Week 2024 and of next AGM**

**2024** 2 - 8 March Work Week 8 -15 June Friends’ Week 12 June AGM

**2025** 1 - 7 March Work Week (tbc) 7 - 14 June Friends’ Week

1. **AOB**

* **The Constitution -** It is planned to make changes to the Constitution to allow members of the Council to serve for more than the stated five years.
* **Fund Raising -** Ideas for fund raising for the roof replacement so far are a) buy a roof tile for £5, b) sponsor a slate, c) ask ALL Friends of Bishop’s House to make a donation and d) set up a Just Giving page. It was also decided to prepare a leaflet and add details on Facebook and our Website.
* **Living Legacy -** A living legacy has been donated to Bishop’s House by Joyce Watson who was very warmly thanked for her generosity. She would like to see the plaque underneath St Columba on the exterior chapel wall re-chipped to make it more legible.

It was also decided that other Friends may like to donate a living legacy and this could be discussed with the Treasurer.

* **Minor Works -** The chest in the vestry is in need of re-organising as it contains many old and unused vestments. Alan Bennett undertook to look at this.
* **St Columba’s Day** - As this falls during Friends’ Week next year on 9 June it was suggested the Bishop should be invited to celebrate at the Eucharist.
* **Staff Gratuities** - With the staff in mind, it is worth noting that there is a gratuities box in the office for all residents (members and non-members) to thank the staff in a monetary way.

Business ended with the Saying of the Grace and thanks was given to Alan for chairing the meeting.