

ASSYNT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Note of Board Meeting held in The Lochinver Mission Meeting Room on 17 April 2017 at 5.30 pm

Present:

Nigel Goldie (Chair)
Willie Jack
Trish Bangor-Jones
John Ventners

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Marianne Hutchison, Boyd Alexander, Madeline Macphail, Stuart Gudgeon and Brendan O'Hanrahan.

2 Minutes of Meeting 20 March 2017

The minutes of 20 March 2017 were **AGREED**.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Finance

The Chair gave a comprehensive review of the latest financial position and Members noted the diligent work of the Chair in this regard.

During further discussions Members noted the new arrangements for the 2017 Tourist Information Centre and the Highland Council Ranger Service. Members noted the need to put the ACA's relationship with the Mission tenants on a more regular footing.

5 Mission Building Update

The forthcoming move to the Mission building by VisitScotland was underway but certain aspects required to be clarified. Among the issues discussed were:

- the role of the ACA in promoting tourism;
- relationships with other bodies e.g. The Assynt Foundation as a tourism provider;
- how best to work with other partners to deliver for Assynt;
- VisitScotland budget cuts; and
- the delivery of a first class tourist information centre on little money.

The Highland Council Ranger Service was scheduled to move into the Mission building and it was confirmed that the Highland Council would pay rent for the office space. Discussion centred on the files which presently occupied the office space. It was agreed that it was necessary for the files and papers to be examined before any decision could be made on their future storage. The Vice Chair **AGREED** to take the lead.

The maintenance of the mission building was discussed and it was **AGREED** that the Chair and Vice Chair would undertake a visual inspection. Thereafter, a schedule of works would be drawn up. This would allow

businesses to quote for any required work. The issue of heating the mission was discussed and it was agreed that an energy audit was essential. The Vice Chair **AGREED** to report back at the next meeting.

Trish Bangor-Jones confirmed she had met with Stevan Lockhart to discuss the archive. There was a broad agreement that a working group be set up with the aim of achieving a refocused and accessible archive. It was **AGREED** that the Vice Chair and Trish Bangor-Jones would take this forward: it was further **AGREED** to co-opt Malcolm Bangor-Jones onto the working group.

6 Governance

With regard to the methods used by the Board to communicate, there was concern about the use of emails. It was suggested that, there may be an advantage if the Board used Yahoo Group for its future email correspondence. It was further suggested that future email exchanges required a “lead officer”.

The Board fully acknowledged the need to work with openness and transparency and the need to carry the community with them.

7 Affiliates

The Chair apprised the meeting of the history of Loo at the Lighthouse and provided an account of the current position. After discussion, the Board concurred that going forward, the partnership must be dealt with in a business-like manner. In this regard, it was **AGREED** that the Vice Chair and Trish Bangor-Jones take the lead with regard to future contact with the owner of Living the Dream.

8 Development Issues

Members noted and **AGREED** the ACA Development Plan. Members discussed the possibility of a community energy supply. It was **AGREED** that the Chair and Boyd Alexander would explore the possible options available.

It was confirmed that superfast broadband was now available in Lochinver. It was noted however, that not all residents of Assynt would benefit from the arrival of superfast. Members discussed the possible buy-in to an existing broadband project such as Highland Community Broadband. It was **AGREED** that the Vice Chair would bring forward a report to the next meeting.

Members noted the current position with regard to the Caplich Wind Farm.

The scheduled visit to GALE was discussed and what issues should be raised.

9 AOB

It was **AGREED** that the Chair would draft wording for a nameplate in honour of Sandy Johnson.

It was **AGREED** that Trish Bangor-Jones would explore the legalities of a Registered Office nameplate.

10 Future Meeting Dates

The Board **AGREED** that the AGM was to be postponed to the autumn at a date to be decided.

It was further **AGREED** to hold regular monthly meetings. The next meeting would be 29 May 2017.