

## Assynt Community Association

Minutes of Board Meeting held in the Archive room, Lochinver Mission  
Monday 16 October 2017 at 3.00pm

### Attendance

Willie Jack (Chair)  
Nigel Goldie  
Madeline MacPhail  
Marianne Hutchison

### Apologies

Boyd Alexander

### Conflicts of interest

None

### 1. Minutes of meetings of 21 August and 25 September including AGM

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the past two meetings were an accurate record of proceedings.

### 2. Matters arising

None

### 3. Assynt Community (Trading) Ltd Update

a) Financial balance from £3,285.51 after all current liabilities have been accounted for including receiving the £250.00 to be refunded from Lochinver FC as their contribution to the balance due on the mower

b) Trading – the sales goods being sold by Mary & Ewen at The Mission but through Visit Scotland is almost at break even, although, there is a small Lomond Books invoice still to pay and receipts from September and October are still to be received from Visit Scotland.

c) A fire safety update report from WJ was attached - this was **ACCEPTED** by the board. A fire risk assessment will be carried out with Julia & Jason Wilson hopefully before the year end with a view to arranging a formal audit through the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in 2018

### 4. ACA Ltd Financial Update

a) Financial balance is around £1850 which includes the £850 received from the community learning exchange towards the £850 consultancy fee for Janet from GALE. There are no outstanding liabilities

b) RBS appear to have now finally resolved the signatories on our RBS accounts

c) Proposal to change our three RBS accounts to: 1. ACA 2. AC(T) Trading 3. AC(T) Reserve **AGREED** by the board

d) Proposal to introduce a budget for the remaining period in the current financial year, and following years. This was proposed by WJ, seconded by MM and was **AGREED** by the board; a first draft budget will be presented to the next board meeting.

### 5. DTAS Meeting

a) Proposal to start the process of changing ACA name and Articles of Association  
The report of the meeting WJ & NG had with Rory Dutton DTAS was attached and it was noted that MM & MH were happy with the process. The meeting **AGREED** with the proposal to adopt the new DTAS model Articles of Association.

b) With our new name the board discussed this and **AGREED** to come up with 3 or 4 new names for the next board meeting which would then be put to the wider community via email, AN and the FB site Assynt Activity.

#### 6. Affiliates

a) Recommendation to introduce a Memorandum of Understanding between ACA and all affiliate groups was **AGREED** by the board and a draft will be presented at the next board meeting by NG

b) Loo at Light. The meeting considered a report from WJ on his meeting with Leigh Sedgley 11<sup>th</sup> October which was attached. Willie advised that the takings for 2017 that had now been banked was £1,022.50. The meeting **AGREED** with the proposal in the report to close the Lo's RBS account, transferring the funds to bank of Scotland. When these have cleared then the money will be transferred over to ACA's RBS account.

c) Lochinver Play Park Group

The meeting considered a proposal from NG to transfer funds from LPPG to ACA. After discussing the subject it was proposed by MH and seconded by MM and the board **AGREED** to transfer the funds. WJ **AGREED** to draft a letter to the LPPG stating that this was our decision.

Specifically the money would be earmarked for the benefit of "Children and young people of Assynt". ACA will make people aware of this fund and request that applications be made for awards and projects. NG **AGREED** to produce a ProForma application form for this and other grant purposes to be considered at the next board meeting.

The board **AGREED** with the proposal to keep this fund separate to other funding considerations of ACA and with the possibility of people contributing towards the fund on an ongoing basis.

#### 7. Culag Park

a) Fencing project. The meeting considered a verbal report from MH. David MacPhail has not yet sent us an estimate for the fencing of Culag Park. MH and NG met with AJ Robertson from Tongue & Lairg on 12<sup>th</sup> October and walked the route of the proposed fence. It was apparently 396m. He advised that as many trees as possible be felled from the cliff top. He works alongside Donald MacLennan from Inverness and AJR will send in an estimate

b) NG is trying to contact Gary Cameron HC locality manager to further discuss the HC owned land around the perimeter.

c) MH advised that Joe MacKay will be walking the park this coming week with contractors from SSE who are working in Lochinver for three months. He will advise MH of the work that they may be able to do for us with tree felling most likely.

d) "Team Challenge" organised a Highland Games in Culag Park for their Inver Lodge guests. Despite agreeing not to drive on the park, they did, which resulted in damage to the turf. It was **AGREED** that MH should chase this up with Ally MacLeod and then with "Team Challenge" with a view to obtaining £150-200 in costs

e) Culag Park Management Group will report at next board meeting

#### 8. Tourism and related issues

Ewen McLachlan from VS came in to the meeting at this point

a) WJ & MM gave a verbal update from their meeting with Jamie Conner from VS which took place this morning, the 16<sup>th</sup> October

The meeting had been primarily about the VS design proposals that had been circulated in early September. VS have a contract with IZON projects who carried out the initial survey and will deliver the re-design of the lobby for VS. JC had told WJ & MM that the contract budget had to be spent on marketing at Lochinver in this financial year. The budget was around £9k and JC had agreed to discuss this further with WJ to ensure we get the most for VS's budget.

b) WJ & MM reported that VS are willing to consider a 'Robust' business plan for a sustainable tourism hub in the Mission. This is because VS still want to use Lochinver as a Pilot Scheme to show how a sustainable community tourism hub can develop. They might consider supporting such a plan with around £15k pa tapering off over three years

WJ asked the meeting for guidance on developing such a business plan; he had found it challenging to start to write the plan this summer with no idea what form any tourism venture should take. But WJ's view is that ACA should not attempt to run such a venture directly.

MH asked NG & MM about GALE and what form this venture took. MH said that she would like to visit GALE if possible.

The board discussed making contact with local people and makers such as Steve Webb. The Achiltibuie and Kylesku craft ventures were also discussed.

MM said that maybe ACA should consider taking over the role of DA?

NG **AGREED** to begin the process of the headings and structure of a community tourism hub business plan.

MH said she felt that a tourism hub should offer a local tourist booking service

NG felt that we could assist local people who might wish to offer different tourist services such as a guided tour of Historic Assynt sites. He encouraged us to look at Airbnb where they offer 'experiences' for sale

c) The board **AGREED** that we should approach HIE (Robert Corbett & Angela Simpson) to further discuss any help available for conversion of the marine room into a useful space.

d) Disposing of the Fish tanks – possible progress through Ewen with Urban Catch in Edinburgh & Glasgow – we should know more by the next board meeting. Willie **AGREED** to write again to Alison MacLeod in Achiltibuie and to liaise with Ewen's contacts

#### 9. Waste Disposal / "Cludgie Group"

a) MM gave a verbal update on progress

No news yet but there is a meeting of the group on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The land at The Glac is limited and the group has yet to find out if there will be any usable land remaining after Scottish Water have installed their pumping equipment.

b) If the waste group moves on with a definitive plan, the North Highland Initiative and NC500 have offered the services of Alan Jones to help raise funds as he did for KLB

c) The Caithness & Sutherland Area Tourism Group has called a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October at Storehouse of Foulis to push for projects in the north Highlands to benefit from a £6M Scottish Govt infrastructure fund. MM is hoping to attend with Gordon Robertson from AF

#### 10. Broadband update

BT Openreach Community Fibre Partnership

The proposal from WJ to engage with the BTO CFP was **AGREED** by the board

### 11. Archive

WJ gave an update on his meeting with Anne Campbell, Coigachon 29<sup>th</sup> September

WJ announced an upcoming meeting with Andy Summers on 18<sup>th</sup> October

### 12. AOB

a) Meeting with Dave McBain to discuss issues arising from Lochinver Mission Ltd. WJ **AGREED** to draft a letter to Angie Gordon expressing the ACA boards regret at her treatment by Lochinver Mission Ltd

b) WJ updated the board on an offer by Codair to erect a map of Lochinver on the Mission wall – for a minimum period of three years. As there is already a map on the Village Hall, the board **AGREED** not to pursue this offer

c) MH advised the board that Claire Belshaw had asked at the recent Stoer meeting of ACC if ACA would register an interest in the Visitor Centre. NG advised the board that although the Scottish Govt had passed the legislation required to achieve a community purchase of a building before it was for sale on the open market (the building is currently only offered for rent), the legislation had not yet been enacted. MH **AGREED** to inform CB

d) New board members

WJ **AGREED** to call Malcolm and Trish Bangor-Jones to see if either would consider joining/ re-joining the board. All board members **AGREED** to think again for likely future board members

### 13. Forward Agenda Items

None at present

### 14. Proposed dates of Next Board Meetings

WJ proposed to change board meetings from monthly to approximately bi-monthly due to

1. The clear separation planned between ACA & AC(T) which will result in less trading issues being discussed at ACA board level

2. The move to have more specialist groups such as Culag Park and the Waste Group which can 'run' projects alongside the main ACA board

The board **AGREED** with this proposal

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2:00-3:30pm

*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 3:30-5:00pm Preparation for mentoring*

*Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Mentoring all day with Janet from GALE*

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 4:00-6:00pm

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 4:00-6:00pm