

Assynt Community Association

Minutes of Board Meeting in Community Room, Lochinver Village Hall

2.00pm Monday 16th April 2018

Attendance

Willie Jack (Chair), Nigel Goldie, Madeline MacPhail, Boyd Alexander, Marianne Hutchison

Apologies Ewen McLachlan, Sarah Ann MacLeod

Conflicts of interest - None

1. Minutes of meeting of 16th March 2018

BA proposed MH seconded, the minutes were **AGREED** to be an accurate record of the meeting

2. Matters arising (not addressed elsewhere on the agenda)

Fish tanks

Second small tank and central dipping tank have been removed from the marine room, although still in the Mission. BA to contact AM in Achiltibuie to expedite removal. The board thanked EM for his persistence and MM added her thanks to all who have starting to clear the room

3. Financial & Legal

a) ACA Ltd and AC (T) Ltd financial update from NG

ACA £5262 including £350 due to Janet Miles at GALE & £500 for Cludgie

ACT £3556 + £1000 rent from J&J = £4556

Boiler & solar panels repair £1500 Balance = approx £3000

NG explained that he will contact Duncan from Gas & Gas to explain & decide upon repair

b) Insurance – WJ agreed with Aviva - £1483pa paid annually and commenced 1st April 2018

c) Final Accounts to year-end 30.06.2017 - prepared by Tim Wright

Submitted accounts to Companies House

d) OSCR Annual Return due by 31.03.18

Submitted return incl accounts to OSCR

e) Change of Name & Articles for ADT

This will be discussed & decided upon at the EGM following this meeting

4. Development Officer Post

Report from Sub Committee meeting on 06.04.2018 at An Cala BA, SM, NG & WJ

Job Advert to be placed in AN, UN & NT

Job description and Strengthening Communities Programme Project details & costs discussed

The timescale was tight but the budget was accepted by SCP through DTAS to be within normal limits

Management/ supervision & monitoring of Dev Officer posts

What lessons can be learnt from past mistakes? Work across a range of projects; The 'tail shouldn't be wagging the dog' and the DO's should be well managed. BA asked if we had Employers Liability Insurance – WJ advised that we did. MM felt that the DO's should live in Assynt, board members felt that transport & housing are key issues for the DO; MH felt that the DO should not be working to man the desk in the Mission Lobby otherwise there would be no work done or tasks being achieved. BA suggested that it may be good to take a table at the next Craft Market (Friday 1st June) and to attend some key events. BA would look into obtaining an A3 table top banner

Details of the job advert, job description and candidate profile were **AGREED** by the board, proposed BA & seconded MM. BA to put details of the DO job description on our website. NG will speak to Wendy Reid at DTAS tomorrow to confirm all the details. Further discussion on "what will you achieve in the first six weeks?", "Vision of Assynt & engagement", "Complexity of community" It was agreed that at interview the candidates should give a five minute non power point presentation on "Establishing strong & effective community networks in Assynt". Questioning should be practical ie "how would you do this?", "Have you achieved anything like this before?"

WJ to ask SM if she can attend for the selection of interviewees and the interviews alongside BA, WJ & NG

Mentoring & support

The board decided to put Project Inspire on hold due to funding

NG to contact Janet Miles from GALE to use the balance of the CLE grant for another meeting possibly in Ullapool, Monday 30th April or 7th May. Possibly at The Ceilidh Place

5. Tourism and related issues

Business Plan update

Public meeting 22.03.18 Lochinver Village Hall

Visit Scotland meeting 30.03.18 Lochinver

HIE Meeting 04.04.18 Lochinver

BA asked what the cost might be for different tourism activities? MM asked if the Mission lobby/ Marine room would be manned? NG suggested that we should ask the various DA providers for their next steps and come back with proposals. BA suggested that downloading rural tourism apps has not been very common and now believes that a TIC provision is a useful service. MH said she felt that info on bookings isn't relevant but that walks and events will be more useful. MM & NG felt that we couldn't come up with the right business model to make retail work, but maybe we should be looking for expressions of interest in opening a retail space? Possibly we should pull together a brief for possible retail, put this out to everybody so that it is an equal opportunity. This may involve us fitting out the Mission. It was **AGREED** that this should be a main agenda item next meeting

6. Culag Park

Fencing project - Update from MH

We now need three quotes and MH is hoping to meet with Donald MacKenzie from Lairg this week. He has done work for ACT and also with SM at Achmelvich. He may be able to do the fencing in next 4-5 weeks

Also ask for funding from WDF, Awards for All

BA advised that we need a banner to be made up as a sign on the fence thanking supporters of the project

7. Community Asset Transfer - Highland Council

Update from BA: No real progress yet. Has written to Liz Howard at SLF. WJ to get together with BA to progress the issues

8. Waste Disposal

Update from MM: Ownership of the Glac land has been uncertain – it now appears that it is the Vestey's. HC WDF has agreed £2,000 funding for the project MM to liaise with NG over the application

9. Assynt Groups connected to ACA

Loo at The Lighthouse

WJ is progressing the lock

Shorewatch have asked for our consent to attach a box to the side of the Loo to keep their equipment safe. The board **AGREED** to the proposal

10. AOB

a) www.assyntdevelopmenttrust.com and www.assyntdevelopmenttrust.co.uk are both available. BA to progress

b) The board **AGREED** to seek expressions of interest for a minutes secretary

c) Duncan Adrift – MH stepped outside the meeting at WJ's request

The board **AGREED** with WJ's suggestion to give an estimated £250 Small Community Grant to Duncan Hutchison for the purchase of a rowing lifejacket for his New York to Lochinver challenge

d) MH returned to the meeting and reminded members of the meeting with Paula Betts from LEADER on 2nd May. It was agreed that MM, MH, WJ & EM would attend

e) HIE Digital masterclass planned for 30th May in Lairg. WJ to attend

f) Teenagers Gripes about life in Assynt. NT story came about through Deirdre MacKay although Linda Munro is the HC Youth Champion. MM proposed that this be discussed at the next board meeting.

12. Forward Agenda Items

13. Dates of Next Board Meetings

Thursday 31st May 1018 2:00-5:00pm - proposed

Friday 13th July 2018 2:00-5:00pm - proposed