

Assynt Resilience Group

Assynt Development Trust, Assynt Community Council Community Care Assynt, Connect Assynt working together

Minutes of the meeting Monday 7th September 2020 5:00pm held via Zoom

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Attendance: Willie Jack, Sarah Ann MacLeod ADT, Bill Wardley Smith, David Slator CCA, Andy Summers Volunteer co-ordinator, Liam Taylor ACC (joined at Item 5) Observing: Adam Pellant, Ewen McLachlan ADT Apologies: Jane Young CA</p>	
2	<p>Any conflicts of interest? None</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Last meeting – The minutes of the 13th August meeting are an accurate record, Proposed AS & Seconded WWS All agreed</p>	
4	<p>Income & expenditure report: The meeting discussed the figures presented and there were no queries. WJ advised that the second last entry on the spreadsheet in favour of Etsy was a credit not a debit. There was approximately £600 remaining unspent on the STP grant and over £10,000 from the SCF grant.</p>	
5	<p>Food bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) AS update: there were 10 recipients of food parcels last week 9 individuals and 1 couple. There has been a huge delivery of food into the village hall with mountains of tins of chickpeas and pilchards and UHT milk. WWS advised that KLB is our food hub and he can tell Graham at Fareshare/KLB that we do not need any more supplies at present (KLB do not have much room either for further supplies). WWS advised that more baby products were sourced through Dornoch and he has posted this today on Assynt Activity. AS advised that there are surplus nappies but only two babies under 9 months. AS has spoken to Heather and Kelly to pass this info through their network. AS has concern that supply of dried baby milk may be a controlled activity, but will find out more. AS and WWS advised that letters were sent to food bank recipients on three occasions and WWS visited all the recipient's homes twice to discuss their need for continuing food parcels. Contact was not made with 11 recipients, and neither did they respond or reply to the letters. The meeting thought that the ARG had been reasonable and fair in assessing people's need for food aid and the 11 recipients who had their food parcels stopped two weeks ago have been given the opportunity to respond on numerous occasions. b) Village Hall: WJ has heard back from the village Hall committee and we have permission to stay on until the end of September with a £250 rent. According to SG guidance we are still in phase 3 at present which means no more that eight people from three different families are allowed indoors together, and there will be no change in the usage of the village hall until we get to phase 4. c) Top up vouchers: 6 people came forward to discuss this with WWS and they were directed to Inverness which is administering the 3 x £49 scheme although it was found to be inappropriate for 2 individuals. d) Community Food Larder: LT joined the meeting. HIE have now given ARG consent to use the remaining SCF funds by 30th September to establish a Community Food Larder in Assynt. WJ and EM discussed the MOO Food Larder with the founder Emma Whitham last week by Zoom and both have recently visited Muir of Ord to view the larder. The main purpose of the food larder was to address issues of food wastage rather than food need. It has been said that the community would have to accept that with a food larder anyone can be a giver and/or taker of food. In Muir of Ord they pride themselves on the maxim "the village that shares". WJ expressed caution with an Assynt 	<p style="text-align: center;">AS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WJ</p>

	<p>community food larder as the project comes with significant responsibilities. WWS suggested that it could require a separate food larder committee to run it. DS suggested that the community should be consulted on the idea and understand the level of support for this project, or not. EM advised that Muir of Ord are now expanding the food larder to outlying villages and it could be appropriate to do this in Assynt, eg Stoer, Drumbeg and Elphin. The likely running costs of a food larder including electricity, insurance and maintenance were raised and it was suggested that ACC/ADT may be willing to contribute to the cost. AS asked if and how an Assynt food larder would affect the need for food parcels? It was felt that this was an unknown. LT asked if there were any statistics on the MOO Food larder that could be useful in Assynt. WWS felt that we need a location for the food bank from October, not just for a food larder. It was thought that possible sites for a food larder could include the Assynt Centre, the Harbour or the Glac. LT agreed to find out more about possible sites at the Glac. WJ agreed to draft an Assynt consultation for AN and FB. EM agreed to contact Elphin village hall as they had expressed interest. DS and WWS advised that they can approach their landlord 'Trust Housing' to see if it would be possible to site the food larder at the Assynt Centre.</p>	<p>LT WJ EM DS/WWS</p>
6	<p>PPE</p> <p>a) It was agreed that ARG should spend a further £1,000 on hand sanitiser. This would use up the remaining ~£600 of the STP grant.</p>	<p>AP/ LT</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) The meeting discussed the possible siting of a tent/marquee /gazebo in Lochinver to provide shelter for residents and visitors whilst waiting in a queue. It appears that the car park is usually full and the best location for users of a tent would be on the pavement next to the Spar; unfortunately this does not appear to be the best site due to other factors.</p> <p>b) SAM advised that refurbished toilets were soon to open in the Caberfeidh.</p>	
8	<p>The meeting ended at 6:15pm</p>	
9	<p>Date of next meeting: Monday 21st September 5:00pm</p>	