

# Assynt Resilience Group

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

## Minutes of Zoom meeting held at 5:00pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Present: Willie Jack, Sarah-Ann MacLeod ADT, David Slator, Bill Wardley Smith CCA, Liam Taylor ACC, Jane Young, CA,  
Observing: Adam Pellant & Ewen McLachlan ADT

**Any conflicts of interest?** None

**1. Last meeting** – Christmas newsletter published and circulated

**2. Finance review**

- a) **STP Towns & Bids Budget** – AP confirmed that there is approximately £750 left to spend from this fund
- b) **Communities Recovery Fund and Adapt & Thrive fund** – flyers circulated previously

**3. Food bank/ Food Larder**

- a) **Village Hall** – the Hall is still in use for the Food Bank. WWS advised that the side door of the community room at the village hall is swollen with the damp which makes it very difficult to open and close. LT will speak to Jackie McAskill to have it checked. SAM feels it is likely that the Food bank will need to restart. WWS reported that there was not much need for the food bank over Christmas and new year. If people are being told to shield by the Scottish Govt (at which time previously Highland Council provided supplies) there is now a phone number for shielded individuals to call to gain help with food aid. There are still good supplies of food at the food bank in the village hall and CCA is in receipt of a £50 per month supply of fresh food. WWS said there are some issues around the supply of food being sent around by Fare Share/Cfine and will speak to Michael Sutherland the local rep to find out more. WWS is expecting people to come forward if they are in need; Joan at KLB can provide food aid to Assynt and is also available to help in alleviating rent concerns. DS wondered if we could be more proactive in ascertaining need? And SAM feels that the need will increase.

WWS stated that Ullapool is classified as 'local' for Assynt residents shopping needs. LT advised that ACC have cards for Assynt residents that say they are shopping local when they go to Ullapool.

LT advised that ACC can apply for funds from the HC Covid fund, through the Ward discretionary budget. This is a £1500 grant scheme for each community council area and WWS will advise LT on the need for fuel ie coal, logs and electricity top ups.

EM asked whether a hot food service may need to be revisited? He suggested perhaps having vouchers for people to spend at the local catering establishments for hot take away food.

**b) Food Larder progress**

The Food Larder was erected by volunteers on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December. The internal fit out is now required plus electrical work & connection. LT advised that Matthew Bulch appears to be very busy so the meeting agreed that he should contact Hugh McKenzie in Ullapool. It was thought that perhaps this cost could be funded through the Highland Council Covid fund.

WJ will submit an application to the NHI Fund to cover the cost of the internal fit out work:

### Estimated Prices from TP's and Wickes

Tongue & groove - 8mm X 94mm X 3m @ £2.18 each 48 lengths = £104.64

Recticel - 25mm 12 sheets for the walls and 5 sheets for ceiling @ £13.20 each = £224.40

MDF - 9mm x 14 sheets for the walls @ £20.81 each = £291.34  
Plywood - 9mm 2.4 x 1.2m x 5 sheets @ £28.30 each = £141.50  
Vinyl flooring - 3.6m x 3.6m Est £100  
Screws, Nails, Foam & Adhesive Est £100.00  
Varnish Est £30.00  
Total £991.88

**4. AOB**

**a) NatureScot (SNH) Better Places Fund**

This was discussed but it was not felt that ARG could utilise this fund at present.

**b) Highland Council Community Resilience Group Update - January 2021 - Noted**

- c) **LT advised that the Spanish and French fishing boats** have gone from Lochinver for now and that 20-35 people have lost work as a result. In addition Loch Duart Salmon are reducing their harvesting. Foreign fishing boats appear to be bypassing the UK and landing their catch in Ireland from where they are shipped directly to the Continent. LT advised that Lochinver was one of the top five UK grossing fishing ports and the meeting wondered what the impact could be locally due to these changes. The long term effects, it was felt, could be devastating locally. WWS advised that the CAB are working remotely and will call people back; claiming for Universal Credit is difficult but the CAB can help with this. LT has contacted Fergus Ewing Scottish Minister who is understanding and wants to help, although he has not been to Lochinver. EM suggested that in the long term there are opportunities for Lochinver with floating offshore wind farms. LT and EM will coordinate a response to Fergus Ewing at the Scottish Govt and to the three NW Sutherland Highland Councillors, and to our MSPs and MP.

**5. Next meeting: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 5:00pm**