

Assynt Development Trust Limited**Minutes of the Board Meeting 2:00pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Zoom Video Conference Call**

<p><b>Present:</b> Willie Jack, Boyd Alexander, Nigel Goldie, Sarah-Ann MacLeod  <b>In attendance:</b> Adam Pellant and Ewen MacLachlan  <b>Apologies:</b> Bill Badger, Edwin de Jong and Marianne Hutchison  <b>Conflicts of interest:</b> None</p>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Minutes of Board meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>  Proposed BA and Seconded NG All agreed that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting</p>	Agreed
<p><b>2. Matters arising (not addressed elsewhere on the agenda</b>  <b>9a)</b> With reference to Molly Jakes funding application: WJ to follow up.</p>	WJ
<p><b>3. Climate Action</b></p> <p><b>a) Assynt Christmas Zoom Climate Action meeting report</b>  EM reported a very positive impact from the Climate Action meeting and it has been suggested that ADT should have another meeting to follow up on possibly a different Climate topic in two or three months. BA suggested EM should promote this meeting more widely.</p>	EM
<p><b>4. Development</b></p> <p><b>a) The Mission freehold acquisition</b>  WJ gave an update on progress so far: the draft offer to buy the freehold from Highland Council is soon to be submitted to the Council's solicitor by our solicitor Corra Irwin.</p> <p><b>b) The Glebe Land, Lochinver</b></p> <p><b>1. WJ Update</b>  WJ gave a report on meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January with the Communities Housing Trust. ADT need to agree and arrange local involvement in the development process by establishing a steering group. Amongst others it has been suggested that the following should be invited to be on the Steering Group: Liam Taylor, Iain MacLeod, Colin Masterton, Elaine McAskill, Claire Belshaw, Brendan O'Hanrahan, Jamie McIntyre. On viewing the Glebe title it was seen that the Glebe eastern boundary with AF shows a discrepancy; this has now been pointed out to AF board. The Trusts offer to buy the freehold from the Church of Scotland is soon to be submitted to the Church's solicitor by Corra Irwin.</p> <p><b>2. Community Learning Exchange agreement with Mull and Iona Community Trust</b>  ADT applied for and was awarded a £250 CLE grant to allow for rural housing discussions with Helen MacDonald the Housing Project Officer at Mull and Iona Community Trust. This will better inform the Trust of key issues to be addressed with the Glebe project</p> <p><b>3. Early bird booking for Rural Housing Summit Sessions 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>  WJ advised that he will attend several sessions of this on line conference and recommended it to others.</p> <p><b>4. Assynt Glebe Land Future Homes Project – Project Officer Role -</b>  WJ submitted an Expression of Interest to the HCCF in early December and we have been advised by HC that a formal application for this project idea can be submitted by the Trust by the 31<sup>st</sup> January deadline. BA agreed to help WJ with the HCCF application.</p> <p><b>5. Assynt Foundation – Canisp Road Upgrade</b>  NG outlined the plans by AF to apply to HCCF for funds to upgrade Canisp Road from their boundary with the SW treatment works eastwards to Glencanisp. The Board agreed to provide a letter of support and WJ will forward to NG an updated letter from last year's SSE application.</p>	<p>WJ</p> <p>WJ</p> <p>WJ/NG</p> <p>WJ/BA</p> <p>NG/WJ</p>

<p><b>c) Cludgie Waste Project</b> AP gave an update on the Cludgie project: RTIF (Round 3) have approved the ADT/ AL grant application for 60% of funds for Cludgie Phase 2 for &gt;£100k. AP is now completing the HCCF application for the 40% match funding requirement. LEADER have extended their deadline beyond 31<sup>st</sup> January for finalising Phase 1. The meeting suggested that it could be useful to lobby Highland Councillors and ACC for support.</p> <p><b>d) Local business support</b> WJ outlined the possible route to help the local business affected by their imminent lease expiry which was through a participation request with HC under the Community Empowerment Act. BA advised that David Green (previously convenor HC) had used a participation request for discussion with HC about the Stac Pollaidh car park extension. AP wondered whether this could also be helpful with housing discussions?</p> <p><b>e) Crown Estate Scotland</b> WJ reported on pre Christmas discussions with CES's Partnership Manager Tom Mallow (introduction made by Pablo Mascerenhas). Of particular interest could be CES £9M investment through their Local Partnerships Challenge Fund and also the possibility of ADT becoming involved with management of CES assets within Assynt. WJ to arrange zoom meeting with Tom Mallow to discuss possible collaboration.</p>	<p>AP</p> <p>WJ</p> <p>WJ</p>
<p><b>5. Finance &amp; Business</b></p> <p><b>a) July 2019 – Dec 2020 Final financial outcome</b> Proposed BA seconded NG all agreed with the draft accounts for the past 18 months period. Papers will now be forwarded to Tim Wright and WJ will co-ordinate production of the annual report with Tim &amp; Edwin</p> <p><b>b) Highland Council Pension Fund A Charter for Responsible Investment</b> AP introduced this proposal to the board. The board agreed to support the proposal that HC should have a statement of investment principals for its pension fund.</p> <p><b>c) Adapt and Thrive Programme SCVO</b> Adapt and Thrive provides the opportunity, space and support so organisations can reflect on their current services and determine which areas they need to change, adapt, innovate, or grow in order to be resilient and successful post-Covid-19. It encourages organisations to think ambitiously about the future and develop bold recovery plans, so they can not only survive, but thrive</p>	<p>EdJ/WJ</p> <p>AP</p>
<p><b>6. Culag Park Update</b> WJ updated the board on Culag Park issues.</p>	
<p><b>7. Discover Assynt Update</b></p> <p><b>a) Proposed spring 2021 Zoom Tourism meeting</b> <b>EM reported</b> that tourism is a bleak picture at present with no information available on likely opening for the season. However there is no reason why ADT should not organise a zoom meeting.</p> <p><b>b) North by North West</b> EM's initial proposal has been rejected by HIE however, further discussions with HIE have resulted in them asking for further details and clarification of eligibility criteria. EM to follow up</p> <p><b>c) NatureScot: Better Places Fund</b> This fund has been set up by NatureScot to help communities and destinations start, or develop further, pro-active visitor management in "hot spot" locations. The fund will offer financial support to undertake the preliminary stages of visitor management planning, which we anticipate as being largely around scoping of the issues and interests. ADT board feels that this fund has nothing to offer the area at present.</p>	<p>EM</p> <p>EM</p>

<b>8. Development Officers Reports</b>	
a) Report from Adam - See report for period to 11 <sup>th</sup> January	
b) Report from Ewen See report for period to 11 <sup>th</sup> January	
<b>9. AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Community Land Scotland Membership Paper 19</b> ADT has joined CLS in order to gain support during the Glebe development</li> <li>b) <b>EM brought up the effect that Brexit has had on Lochinver Harbour</b> since the French and Spanish fishing boats have left Lochinver Harbour with no date set for their return which has resulted in the loss of work to 20-30 people in Lochinver. EM has discussed this issue with Helen Houston in Scourie and David Balharry at JMT (former advisor to Fergus Ewing). The board supports his view that a letter to Fergus Ewing at Scottish Govt; Highland Councillors; our MSP's and our MP should be coordinated with ACC. EM with start this process.</li> </ul>	EM
<b>10. Proposed date of next meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2:00pm</b> Draft annual report to be considered</li> <li><b>AGM Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm</b></li> </ul>	