

Assynt Development Trust Limited

Minutes of Board Meeting Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 2:00pm via Zoom

Present: Willie Jack (WJ), Marianne Hutchison (MH), Boyd Alexander (BA), Sarah Ann MacLeod (SAM), Nigel Goldie (NG)

In attendance: Adam Pellant (AP), Ewen McLachlan (EM)

Apologies: Edwin de Jong (EdJ), Bill Badger (BB)

<u>Subject discussed</u>	<u>Action</u>
<b>1. Minutes of Board meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b> It was proposed by MH, seconded by BA that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate record of the proceedings; All agreed.	Agreed
<b>2. Matters arising (not addressed elsewhere on the agenda)</b>  <b>5a) Local business:</b> WJ advised the board that he had arranged a meeting with the local business owner who had requested ADT's help, and two officials from the landlords organisation. However it wasn't possible to proceed with the suggestions made at this meeting. The board AGREED that the Trust should continue to help the local business with their lease negotiations. The board asked WJ to continue discussions and report back.  <b>5d) Highland Wireless</b> - Nothing to report on yet	WJ
<b>3. Climate Action Update from MH</b>  a) <b>Update MH</b> MH has spoken to BB and he's keen to stay involved and is looking forward to when we can meet again and not just on Zoom  b) <b>Proposed Assynt Christmas Climate Action meeting on Zoom</b> MH & EM reported that the date & time for the meeting is likely to be Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. The following speakers have agreed to participate: Julian Moreau (Plastic at Bay), Anna Patfield (Planet Sutherland), Tom Ballantine (Chair Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Coalition) Roxanne Andersen (Peat Land researcher University of Highlands and Islands, Thurso) and Fiona Saywell (CALL & CCWT). The board heard that the meeting would include a ten minute segment from each participant on their subject of special interest with a discussion afterwards and Q&A. Questions can be submitted in advance and via Zoom. It was agreed that the participants should produce a mini CV and then the meeting agenda can be distributed via AN, ADT email, possibly Assynt Field Club email, Social media and Northern Times. The ADT Zoom account will allow 100 participants and this can be increased to 1,000. It was agreed that it should be recorded and uploaded onto ADT's You Tube channel  c) <b>Scottish Communities Climate Action Network</b> meeting is to be held on 5 <sup>th</sup> December 10:00am to 1:00pm and you can sign up at <a href="https://sccanhi5dec.eventbrite.co.uk">https://sccanhi5dec.eventbrite.co.uk</a>	EM/ MH
<b>4. Development</b>  a) <b>The Glebe Land, Lochinver</b> The Scottish Land Fund has awarded ADT £65,750 towards the acquisition of the Assynt Glebe Land The grant award has been accepted by WJ & NG and Corra Irwin at MacLeod and MacCallum has been appointed solicitor for the conveyance of title with contact being made by her with Church of Scotland solicitors. In discussion the board agreed that while there are many issues to discuss in relation to homes built on the Glebe Land, that the main points are 1. to ensure that the Trust develops a fair and transparent Allocations Policy 2. that the housing will be for individuals and	

<p>families primary residence and not holiday or second homes and 3. that the homes will be very energy efficient and will be cheap to run. The board discussed the Draft HC Housing in the Countryside Guidance document which had been circulated and agreed that WJ and NG should lead on the early ideas of the project with SAM and BA able to join in 2-3 months. The news needs to be publicised widely.</p> <p>b) <b>Cludgie Waste Project</b> Anderson Civil Engineering is still onsite with completion of Phase 1 likely to be in early December. AL has received the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of RTIF funding while LEADER payments are being applied for; this is a complicated process and the first claim will be made this week with funds received within two weeks. External signage has a budget of £1,500 and ideally this should be ordered and paid for by the end of December.</p> <p>c) <b>The Mission freehold acquisition</b> HC councillors agreed at the 25<sup>th</sup> November meeting of Communities and Place Committee to ADT's request to acquire the Mission freehold for £1. Estimated legal costs for both sides of £5K payable by ADT. All directors expressed their delight at this outcome. As with the Glebe the news needs to be publicised widely.</p>	<p>WJ/ NG SAM/ BA</p> <p>AP</p> <p>WJ</p>
<p>5. <b>Finance &amp; Business</b></p> <p>a) <b>2021 Budget Proposal and spreadsheet</b> 2021 Budget proposal presented including ADT setting aside a maximum of £13k funding towards a half or full time Development Officer role to end of 2022. The budget proposal was proposed by MH and seconded by NG and all board directors AGREED.</p> <p>b) <b>ADT membership of DTAS</b> ADT have been accepted as full members of DTAS</p>	<p>WJ / EdJ</p>
<p>6. <b>Culag Park Update</b></p> <p>a) <b>Kissing Gates</b> - WJ advised that Joe Mackay has sourced components to allow the three kissing gates into the park to be closed automatically as deer have been seen entering the park through these gates. Two contractors have been contacted to give a price for the work required.</p> <p>b) <b>Soft &amp; wet ground</b> - MH feels that we need to investigate pressure resistant matting to allow vehicles to enter the wetter parts of the park without damaging the ground</p> <p>c) <b>Culag River end</b> - blockage of the road here needs to be addressed in case ambulances choose to use this entrance due to the soft ground at the Mission end. It was agreed to investigate a sign that can be put there and to speak to the owner of the neighbouring property.</p>	<p>WJ</p> <p>MH</p> <p>WJ</p>
<p>7. <b>Discover Assynt Update</b></p> <p>a) <b>Proposed spring 2021 Zoom Tourism meeting</b> EM is proposing a Zoom event similar to the event that was planned for 2020. EM to present more details at the next meeting</p> <p>b) <b>North by North-West</b> – EM outlined his proposal for a tourism DMO (Direct Managed Organisation) for the whole of the North West for Wester Ross and north and west Sutherland using the HIE funding for this. He will be speaking to Eann Sinclair from HIE. The meeting advised EM to make contact with HC's Tourism Committee and especially our three councillors. The next HC Tourism Committee meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. MH pointed out that with elections due to HC in May all current and prospective councillors should be asked about their proposals for tourism. EM was asked to contact them and engage with the Tourism committee</p>	<p>EM</p> <p>EM</p>

<b>8. Development Officers Reports</b>	
<p>a) <b>Report from Adam</b> - report for period to 20<sup>th</sup> November  AP advised that he has contacted Galbraiths,, the Vestey's land agent, to gain consent for the "Harbourside" sign which is planned to be erected on the village side of the River Inver bridge.</p>	AP
<p>b) <b>Report from Ewen</b> - report for period to 20<sup>th</sup> November  No further questions</p>	
<b>9. AOB</b>	
<p>a) <b>Assynt Loneliness Project application to Peter Sowerby Foundation</b>  WJ explained the detail of Molly Jakes'(ScotGEM trainee Assynt Medical Practice) application for funding being supported by ADT</p> <p>b) <b>CALL Heritage Signage Project:</b> BA advised the meeting of this project which is supported by CALL partners Historic Assynt and CCDC. Work should start in early December with planning consent applied for by the end of January. ACC have been informed</p>	
<p><b>10. Proposed date of next meeting</b>  <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2:00pm</b>  WJ &amp; EdJ have agreed with Tim Wright that if he has the 2019/20 accounts data by mid January then he can produce the draft Annual accounts by this meeting</p> <p><b>AGM Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March / Possibly 18<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm</b>  This date will allow the AGM to proceed within the time limits required for prior notification</p>	WJ / EdJ