

## Assynt Development Trust Limited

**Minutes of Board Meeting held in the Community Room, Lochinver Village Hall  
2.00pm Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

### Present

Willie Jack (Chair), Nigel Goldie, Sarah-Ann MacLeod, Marianne Hutchison,

### In attendance

Boyd Alexander (volunteer)  
Ewen McLachlan (Development Officer)

### Apologies

Madeline MacPhail

### Martin Thomsen from Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust – Assynt Locality Plan

Before the board meeting Martin Thomsen from Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust spoke to the board on the proposals they are developing from the Sutherland Community Partnership for an Assynt Locality Plan. This process started last year across Sutherland with almost 80 Assynt residents responding to the online survey. Nothing has yet been done with the Assynt data while the SCP concentrated on producing plans for the five most deprived areas/ towns in Sutherland. The KOSDT have picked up these and the remaining tasks and now aim to complete plans for all Community Council areas in Sutherland. He explained that as Assynt is not one of the most deprived areas, the locality plan for Assynt may not be fully taken into consideration by the SCP but it would provide an objective evidence base for any work planned by ADT. The online survey could go live again and be promoted from July with workshops in Assynt in late August/ early September. The aim would be to produce the plan by the middle to end of September. The board **AGREED** that they would like to work with Martin and the team at KOSDT, and others in Assynt, to produce a locality plan for Assynt. WJ to put Martin in contact with EM & AP. MH will bring up this matter at tonights ACC meeting.

### Conflicts of interest

BA Culag Fence project

### Co-opton of Boyd Alexander as a board member

WJ explained that Boyd had resigned as a board director about a fortnight ago when it had been pointed out that as a non Assynt resident, he did not meet the conditions of our new Articles of Association. MH Proposed, NG Seconded and the board **AGREED** to co-opt Boyd back onto the board. WJ **AGREED** to action with Companies House.

### 1. Minutes of meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

All **AGREED** that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting

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

None

### 3. Financial & Legal

a) ADT Ltd and AC(T) Ltd financial update from NG  
ADT £4,671 in main & reserve accounts  
ACT £4,007 in main & reserve accounts

NG explained that there are and will be large bills for the heating system while maintenance is overdue within the Mission building. WJ explained about the changes to the name & addresses of our RBS Bank accounts.

b) Change of Name & Articles for ADT

Chnages at Companies House & OSCR were confirmed by WJ

c) New address for ADT from Postcode Address File (PAF):

Assynt Development Trust Limited, Lochinver, Lairg, SUTHERLAND, IV27 4LE

#### 4. Development Officer Post

Update from WJ & EM as to progress so far. EM had started work on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and Adam will be starting work next week.

The board **AGREED** to adopt Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures

#### 5. Culag Park

Fencing project - Update from MH

#### **Funding**

Funding of £5,000 from CALLP and of £500 from SSC has been claimed while WJ has received a cheque for £500 from ACC. MH to discuss with Loch Duart Salmon & Assynt Angling Club/ Assynt Games Cttee about raising the balance of £400. WJ to attend ACC meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May in Drumbeg to thank the Council for their donation.

The board discussed dogs and signage in the park – all **AGREED** that the Park should be totally Animal Free to include deer and dogs. WJ **AGREED** to discuss with the Park Users Group by email about Animal management. There is an issue with the Mission gate not fully closing - WJ **AGREED** to ask Donald McKenzie about gate closers. WJ read out Ally MacLeods email thanking the board and asking about a maintenance rota. WJ asked the board if they knew of anyone who may wish to be involved in grass cutting? BA advised that he was having a CALLP meeting in Lochinver on June 10<sup>th</sup> so it would be good to have a banner up on the fence by then thanking those who supported the fence project. EM was tasked to liase over the banner production. It was **AGREED** that there should be a Park clear up, Banner Up & Photo call on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2:00pm. EM **AGREED** to publicise this on FB

#### 6. Community Asset Transfer - Highland Council

Update from BA on SLF & CAT process with Liz Howard. She has advised that our application needs to resubmitted to SLF and has detailed the changes to be made; the new deadline is towards the end of July. Online valuations available from HC website. BA asked WJ for info on possible Asbestos within the large shed. BA & WJ **AGREED** to meet to discuss further.

#### 7. Waste Disposal

Update from EM

EM has been working alongside MM to progress this issue. It has now known that the Glac site is owned by the Vestey estate. GR to discuss with Vestey's agent about a 50-100 year long lease on the ground at the Glac. WJ advised caution with regards to legal costs as they can be high for land issues (reference the legal costs incurred by ACA when acquiring Culag Park)

#### 8. Tourism and related issues

a) Update on fish tanks – WJ & EM have met with a local person who may be interested in the larger tank, this is to be explored further next week. The second small tank is going to Achiltibuie, hopefully next week (Alison at Achiltibuie took the dipping tank in April)

b) Retail proposal for The Mission

NG introduced some ideas as to how to proceed with the ideas. MH suggested asking if others could come up with some ideas as to using the space and present these to the board. WJ to present info on 2017 retail experience. The board **AGREED** that ADT should seek expressions of interest over the use of the former Marine Room; NG to progress this.

c) MM wrote an email from 20<sup>th</sup> May about manning a tourism service at The Mission. The board **AGREED** not to proceed with a paid for presence but tasked EM to develop a volunteer run service to possibly include a few hours each day.

#### 9. Assynt Groups connected to ACA

a) Loo at the Light

WJ delivered a donations 'tin' to Clive at the Café approx four weeks ago and users are being asked to contribute 50p for using the Loo. The new door lock has been ordered and should be delivered within the next 2-3 weeks. It has been set up for a 50p charge.

## 10. Board business

a) Teenagers gripes about life in Assynt – MH reported that she had written to all three Sutherland councillors; Deirdre McKay had replied saying that the young people who contributed to the NT article had been asked to air their views to the Sutherland Community Partnership – this could happen after the school exams are over

## 11. AOB

a) Toilet donations at The Mission – up to a fortnight ago we had taken over £100. WJ will bank this money on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The board **AGREED** to purchase two other donations boxes & place them within the toilets

b) Letter box outside building to be put up soon - WJ

c) Proposed Logo – the board **AGREED** that it be redesigned. EM to take this further so it can be used on the Fence banner

d) Proposed registered office sign for The Mission. The board **AGREED** that WJ should order without a logo

e) GDPR and database numbers  
80 replies out of 220 – available for use. WJ **AGREED** to put out Facebook post thanking those who responded and asking for more.

f) Membership numbers update – 16 members following on from the email  
BA proposed and the board **AGREED** that we ask MM to follow up non responses

g) Email addresses & profiles for directors & staff  
Profile & photos for directors on website – the board **AGREED** that all board directors and staff should forward their profiles to BA for the website. The board **AGREED** that BA & EM should liaise together with AP over obtaining ADT email addresses.

h) NG introduced the topic of DA and total lack of communication with regards to DA becoming subsumed into ADT Ltd. Meeting proposed – WJ **AGREED** to ask Chris Rix for an date when we could meet to move this on.

i) Regeneration Capital Grant Fund  
The board **AGREED** that this may be of limited benefit but EM was tasked investigating further

j) LEADER funds – WJ introduced MH's email from Paula Betts about changes to LEADER from September. The board **AGREED** that this should be a major priority for EM & AP's work plan. WJ to discuss further with EM & AP.

k) Toilet closures  
SAM introduced this topic and the board discussed it in some detail. The board **AGREED** that this is an issue that ADT should be a part of although the board is not committed to any set course of action until proposals are discussed and agreed upon. Suggestions ranged from taking over the toilets and possibly the car park to fundraising for the future of the toilets. The Achmelvich common grazings may be interested in taking over responsibility for the beach including the machair from the council. SAM **AGREED** to lead on this issue

## 12. Dates of Next Board Meetings

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 2:00-5:00pm – **AGREED**

The meeting closed at 5:15pm