

## Assynt Resilience Group

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

Minutes of the meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 4:00pm held via Zoom

No	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Attendance:</b> Willie Jack ADT, Bill Wardley Smith CCA, Jane Young CA, Liam Taylor ACC, Andy Summers Volunteer co-ordinator</p> <p><b>Observing:</b> Ewen McLachlan ADT</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> David Slator CCA, Sarah Ann MacLeod ADT</p>	
2	<p><b>Any conflicts of interest?</b> None</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of Last meeting</b> – The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> July meeting are an accurate record of the meeting, Proposed LT &amp; Seconded WWS All agreed</p>	
4	<p><b>Income &amp; expenditure report:</b> The meeting discussed the figures presented and there were no queries.</p>	
5	<p><b>Food bank:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) AS advised that the numbers in receipt of food bank help were coming down now. WWS has sent out two letters to all food bank recipients asking them to tell us what their needs are but has not received a response from everyone. After a long discussion it was agreed that a third letter would be sent out next week followed by WWS visiting all recipients to discuss their needs.</li> <li>b) The location of the food bank was discussed and WJ agreed to write to Amanda Webb to ask the Village Hall Committee for an extension of the use of the Village Hall for the food bank from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>c) The meeting discussed the need to consider the existence of the Assynt Food Bank from October onwards after the SCF funds end. EM described the MOO option and suggested that it could be sited adjacent to a community building. LT said that he thought the MOO fridge was a great idea while AS felt that it could be the successor to the Assynt Food Bank. WJ to contact the MOO founder</li> <li>d) WJ advised that Angela Simpson at HIE had not yet heard from SG about any Covid Recovery Fund – all members of the group felt that the ARG should look into this and investigate possibilities</li> </ul>	<p>WWS</p> <p>WJ</p> <p>WJ</p> <p>All</p>
6	<p><b>PPE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) STP grant - WJ advised the meeting that spending on items purchased through this scheme had started and AP is co-ordinating requests.</li> </ul>	AP
8	<p><b>Other funding decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) £49 top-up vouchers x3 per person are available. It was decided to find out the route whereby people can take advantage of this and publicise through email and on FB</li> </ul>	WJ

	b) Corra / Comic Relief Grant scheme. It was discussed that this may be a useful source of funds for mental health needs. EM advised that AL is currently considering applying for an NHI grant for mental health/ well being courses	
9	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>a) On behalf of Assynt Games Committee Stuart Gudgeon has suggested the use of their tents in Lochinver to give people somewhere to wait out of inclement weather. The GC asked for a small donation towards their use if ADT / ACC could insure them. WJ agreed to seek an extension of ADT's insurance</p> <p>b) The Sutherland Community Planning Partnership have requested that the ARG provide them with names of individuals who have volunteered through the Covid Emergency so they could be given recognition for their time. Members agreed to give names to WJ</p> <p>c) WJ advised the meeting that Laura Hamlet has been appointed to the post of Project Officer with the Adaptive and Collaborative Communities Project working with Assynt and other west coast communities (and based at the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, funded by SG and linked to the Sutherland Community Planning Partnership)</p> <p>d) WJ advised the meeting that Join Muir Trust is developing the idea of a defining a collective vision for the NW Highlands in the build up to CAP reform post-brexite and the SG elections next May. Members were generally supportive of a stronger more unified voice in the NW. LT advised that Scourie is leading on a Forum of Chairs of NW Community Councils</p> <p>e) Wild Camping: There was a long discussion on the issue of wild and the so called 'dirty' camping in Assynt and the North Highlands. Concerns were raised that we perhaps need signs but not too many. WJ advised that he has heard from Matt Dent as HC were considering signage but that they couldn't 'ban' anything that was actually legal in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. AS advised that SNH are fast tracking a part time seasonal ranger post 18.5 hours pw from Knockan through Assynt on the Rock Trail part educational part litter. LT feels that some signs will be required specifically signs giving directions and possibly distances to WC's. AS advised that he had considered the Leave No Trace seven principles as being a more educational approach. WJ told the meeting that ADT would support an Assynt wide community website which could include all sorts of information about local organisations and facilities.</p> <p>f) Loch Broom Community Council project to provide trowels and toilet signs in Lay-bys. The meeting discussed this idea but didn't consider that this approach was worth pursuing in Assynt</p> <p>g) The Glebe Consultation – WJ advised the group for information only that ADT was working with HSCHT to consult across Assynt on their proposals for an affordable housing project on the Glebe.</p>	<p>WJ/ SG</p> <p>All/WJ</p> <p>LH</p> <p>LT/ WJ</p> <p>AS/ LT/ WJ</p>
10	<b>The meeting ended at 3:45pm</b>	
11	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> Possibly Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September at 4:00pm?	All