

## ASSYNT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minute of Board Meeting held in The Lochinver Mission Meeting Room

24 July 2017 at 5.30pm.

### Present:

Nigel Goldie (Chair)  
Willie Jack  
Madeline MacPhail  
Marianne Hutchison  
Boyd Alexander

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Trish Bangor-Jones

### Conflicts of Interest

Marianne Hutchison advised that she will speak on the Lochinver Play Parks Group, which she is a member of, under Item 11: AOB

### 1 Minutes of Meeting 28 June 2017

The minutes of 31 May 2017 were **AGREED** after changing the name in Item 3.3 from David Hutchison to David McKay

### 2 Matters Arising

1. Waste Disposal for Caravans and Camper-Vans - the Board **NOTED** that Madeline MacPhail is continuing to follow up with this issue. Gordon Robertson from Assynt Foundation had apparently spoken of plans at AF to deal with waste disposal; Nigel Goldie said he believed that this may be an aspiration of AF but could not happen without funding, although HIE may fund this. Marianne Hutchison stated that Assynt Community Council had said that Discover Assynt should take the lead on this issue. When ACC met recently at Drumbeg, the community there regarded this as an important issue. It was thought that there were possible waste disposal sites at the Harbour & opposite the Glack. Willie Jack said that Scottish Water would likely be the organisation to work with as they operate 2-3 septic tanks in Lochinver.

2. Fish tanks in the Marine Room. – the board **NOTED** that Boyd Alexander had met with Alison MacLeod from Coigach Community Dev Co who, after seeing the fish tanks in the Marine Room, expressed an interest in them being taken to the former Smokehouse in Coigach. After hearing from Nigel Goldie & Roger Glover about the construction methods of the tanks the board was told that the 'window' would need to be removed to remove the tanks. No timescale was given by CCDC but Boyd Alexander would **FOLLOW UP** on this

3. Whilst on the issue of the Marine Room, Willie Jack **ADVISED** the board that the glass display gondolas and corner unit from Visit Scotland's former premises in Inverness were being delivered into the Marine Room on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Willie had been advised by VS that the bookcases could not be delivered due to the cost.

4. Also Willie Jack **ADVISED** that Julia & Jason at An Cala café had requested that the Marine Room be used for storage of tables & chairs during Games Day. Marianne Hutchison

**AGREED** to speak to David McKay about allowing J&J to use the building he owns behind the Mission

5. 7.2 Governance The board **NOTED** that Stuart Gudgeon had resigned from the board and thanked him for his contribution.

6. 7.5 Articles of Association – the board **NOTED** that Nigel Goldie will follow this up with Rory Dutton from DTAS.

7. 8.0 Archives – the board **NOTED** that Willie Jack and Trish Banger Jones had been contacted by Anne Campbell from Coigach Community Dev Co over their project “The Soil Beneath Our Feet”. Boyd Alexander confirmed that CCDC were working with the European Ethnology Centre from the University of Edinburgh on this project with meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August. Madeline MacPhail advised that Trish Banger Jones may wish to contact Kenny (Bong) Mackenzie – Willie Jack **AGREED** to pass his name on

### **3. Finances Update**

1. Nigel Goldie **ADVISED** that the ACA No 1 Acc had a balance of £1,434 while ACA No 2 Acc had £2,641. A total of £4,075 with no current liabilities

2. Nigel Goldie spoke of the continuing inability of RBS to process our application to change signatories on the accounts, but that this was being progressed. He proposed that he write to RBS asking to rename the accounts ACA Ltd and AC(T) Ltd; the board **AGREED** to this

3. Madeline MacPhail asked if the board could pay for a large ‘I’ to be put on the gable of the bunkhouse. The board **AGREED** that Willie Jack would follow up with the offer from Visit Scotland to do this and to also ask Charlie Russell to provide a quotation and report back to the board

### **4. Tourism**

1. Willie Jack reported to the board on the progress of retail sales within the Mission Lobby rented by Visit Scotland; products were now on sale from Lomond Books and Keycraft, displayed on a bookcase sourced by Marianne Hutchison and lent by Angela MacLeod from Lochinver Primary School. This allows the sales items to be moved to the Marine Room out of sales hours. There is a liability of £852 to Lomond Books and £306 to Keycraft although the products from Lomond Books are on 60 days credit and sale or return. Also being sold are the Discover Assynt book “Assynt Walking Network” and very soon a range of postcards from Stirling Gallery

2. Willie Jack reported to the board on his visit to the opening of the new Visit Scotland VC on High St Inverness on 12 July 2017 where he was introduced to John Thurso, Chairman VS and Fiona Hyslop Scottish Govt minister for Tourism, Culture & the Arts. While there he was shown the glass & wood display & sales units from the old Inverness VC which are being donated to Lochinver, arriving this week. He met Riddell Graham main board director at VS who advised of the VS appointment of Chris Taylor formerly of the Tourism unit at HIE. Willie will be advised when he starts and will be introduced.

3. Lynn Jack from VS had introduced Willie to Sarah Cameron of SenScot in Edinburgh, which is a social enterprise promoting community involvement in tourism developments. He will meet with Sarah on 1<sup>st</sup> August in Edinburgh and will **REPORT** to the August board meeting

4. There followed a wide-ranging discussion on the merits of ACA running a retail shop as part of any development of the tourism hub within the Mission building. Reservations were

expressed at the prospect of ACA employing staff directly also competing against established Lochinver businesses (in both cases learning lessons from the two earlier failed businesses at The Mission) and It was **AGREED** that prior to any public meeting about the tourism hub that a small group of directors should meet with Assynt retailers to hear their views

David Grant	Highland Stoneware
Alex Dickson	Achins bookshop
Hilary MacDonald	Rocpool
John McCarthy	Lochinver Landscapes
Angel McKenzie	Village Green
John Simpson	Newsagents
David McKay	Lochinver Chandlery
Helen	Drumbeg Stores

Following this meeting the board **AGREED** to develop several proposals for the tourism hub to put out to consultation to the public

## **5. Culag Park**

1. Board members had received the report on the public meeting organised by Marianne Hutchison on 13 July in Lochinver. Marianne **AGREED** to report back on progress with the plans for fencing. The board heard from Boyd Alexander about the meeting with HC Ward Manager Gary Cameron in Lochinver on 11 July – GC has promised to investigate whether HC owns land adjacent to the ACA owned land at Culag Park.

2. New lawn mower - At the public meeting Cllr Hugh Morrison advised that he had spoken to David Nicol of Frank Nicol in Dingwall and they had a mower costing £2,000 to which the Highland Council Ward Discretionary budget could contribute £1,000. Marianne ADVISED that she had been pledged an additional £850 locally while Stuart Gudgeon from the Games Committee had advised Madeline MacPhail that they may be able to offer £200. Jess Thomas had replied yesterday to Marianne by email that Lochinver Play Parks Group may be able to contribute whilst asking detailed questions about ACA's financial position and governance and where any new mower may be stored. Willie Jack advised that he may be able to call in to Frank Nicols to check on the type of mower proposed. Nigel Goldie proposed, Boyd Alexander seconded and it was unanimously **AGREED** that ACA would contribute £500 to the cost of the mower.

## **6. Asset transfer meeting**

The board **NOTED** the report from the meeting that Boyd Alexander and Nigel Goldie had with HC Ward Manager Gary Cameron in Lochinver on 11 July. Boyd is waiting to hear back from GC on enquiries as to HC owned land. The Scottish Govt Land Fund will pay 95% of anything over £10k plus all legal costs whilst paying 0% for anything under £10k

## **7. Affiliates**

1. Trish Bangor Jones had produced a first draft of the letter planned to go out to all voluntary organisations in Assynt and Willie Jack handed out the latest draft to board members. Willie **AGREED** to email a copy to the board members who would then comment on it. Willie would then **FOLLOW UP** with a final version which would be sent out to all voluntary organisations in Assynt (a list which Marianne Hutchison **AGREED** to request from ACC's Phil Jones) and a slightly amended version would be sent to Assynt News for publication.

2. Nigel Goldie advised that he had been approached by Alex Dickson who had (along with Pat Roberston and Ian Yates) administered the Luis Gouviea Fund, which funded local youngsters for study travel plans. There was £152 left in the fund and it was **AGREED** that ACA would accept the money and put it to good use.

## **8. Governance**

AGM

1. Date for AGM – It was **AGREED** that the AGM would be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm, probably in the Community Room of the Village Hall (although the venue is TBC)

2. Boyd Alexander **AGREED** to send board members a list of the approx 40 members of ACA. Nigel Goldie **AGREED** to send board members more information about the tenure of directors including the numbers and time intervals.

3. It was **AGREED** that all six existing directors would stand down prior to the AGM

4. New directors suggested included Andy Summers, Malcolm Bangor Jones and Jeanette McCarthy

## **9. Mentoring support from GALE**

This was discussed prior to the board meeting with a report due to the next board meeting from the scribe Nigel Goldie and the presenter Willie Jack

## **10. Archive**

Willie Jack advised that he is planning to meet with Trish and Malcolm Bangor Jones to discuss this further and will **REPORT** back for the August board meeting

## **11. AOB**

1. Willie Jack proposed that ACA seek membership of DTAS and SCVO. This was **AGREED** unanimously

2. Marianne Hutchison spoke of the ACA affiliate Lochinver Play Parks Group; due to confidentiality this item was held in private.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August in the Archives at The Mission, preceded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategy meeting at the Community Room, Village Hall at 2:00pm