

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Assynt Development Trust (formerly Assynt Community Association)
held from 6pm at on Wednesday 28th November at the Community Room of Lochinver Village Hall**

1. **Present:** Wille Jack (Chairperson), Marianne Hutchison, Wilma Mackay, Sarah Macleod, Greg Allen, Madeline MacPhail, Alex Dickson, Angel MacKenzie, David Slator, Vanessa Ling, Chris Rix, Maurice Tomkinson, Jane Young, Nigel Goldie, Mairi-Anne Macleod. (Quorate.)
In attendance: Boyd Alexander (not ordinary member as not Assynt resident), Ewen McLachlan, Adam Pellant.
2. **Apologies:** Andy Summers, Simon Jeffries, David Mackay, Jane Tulloch, Keith Williams, Roddie Kerr. Willie Jack introduced the meeting and agenda items.
3. **Minutes of last Annual General Meeting and Extra-ordinary General Meeting** – both were approved.
4. **Matters Arising** – none.
5. **Chairperson's Report** – Willie gave the report (see written version). He also thanks Madeline for her contribution as a director, and presented her with a gift.

Following his report there were questions:

Vanessa asked whether a development plan would be produced or if ADT planned instead to seize new opportunities to advance their aims as they arose.

Willie and Boyd responded saying that a meeting is planned with other Assynt organisations aiming to co-ordinate development planning between different groups. Also, they reported that the top priority coming out of a recent governance workshop facilitated by HISEZ is creating an up to date Business Plan for ADT.

David raised the issue of how to make development priorities representative of the community's wishes, if often based on limited feedback, such as meetings of around 20 people.

Willie mentioned how ADT is helping other Assynt groups, for example the Cludgie Project at Assynt Leisure and office space being provided for Connect Assynt.

6. **Elections of new Directors** – All in favour of motion to elect both Sarah Macleod and Marianne Hutchison, who stood down and had been nominated for (re-)election.
7. **Consideration of the Annual Accounts for year ended 30/06/2017**, and
8. **Consideration of the Annual Accounts for year ended 30/06/2018** – both sets of accounts had been available on the ADT website in advance of the AGM, and were circulated on paper at the meeting. The abridged version of AC(T) trading company accounts were also present for inspection. There were questions and answers.

Vanessa asked about increased costs from YE June 2017 to YE June 2018. Adam noted that most of the costs are depreciation, but that the additional costs in the second of the years were 100% grant funded costs, including the Culag Park deer fencing cost and some early costs for the project to employ Development Officer staff.

Alex asked where the AC(T) rental income shows in accounts. It was noted that this isn't shown in the abridged version of the trading company accounts, but the trading company's profit element and transfer to ADT is shown in the accounts.

Alex asked if a rent review relating to rent of the assets in the Mission building had yet happened. Willie responded that advice has been sought to help with this and it will be conducted soon.

David asked if the AC(T) funds transfer to ADT would cover a second year of ADT staffing costs. The answer was that it wouldn't, but that we are hopeful of receiving at least one more year of funding to cover 100% of Development Officer staffing costs.

9. **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** – Proposal to delete Clause 22 of ADT Ltd's Articles of Association (*Employees of the company shall not be eligible for membership; a person who becomes an employee of the company after admission to membership shall automatically cease to be a member*), and re-number the subsequent clauses, and
10. **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** – Proposal to change current Clause 28 of ADT Ltd's Articles of Association, from: *For the avoidance of doubt, when deciding whether to admit any individual or organisation to membership, the directors shall adhere to a transparent process which enshrines the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination.*

to: *The directors shall consider each membership application to determine if the terms of clauses 17, 22 and 26 apply and into which category of membership each applicant shall belong, and to determine that the applicant is not excluded by virtue of clause 29 or has previously been a member of the Company and continues to be excluded from membership by virtue of clause 41, and if meeting these considerations the directors may not refuse membership.*

Item 9 was explained as being to allow employees of ADT Ltd to be members of ADT Ltd (although employees would still be unable to be directors). Item 10 was explained as being to clarify that directors cannot be discriminatory with

regards to membership, which is a change suggested to us by administrators of the Scottish Land Fund in order to comply with requirements and best practice for community land ownership.

- All those present were in favour of both these resolutions.

11. Any Other Business.

Further questions and answers and discussion:

It was suggested that clarification was needed as to membership of ADT, and that ADT let people know they need to get in touch to confirm they wish to be members, if they haven't already done so in recent years.

Angel raised issue of road safety for kids crossing the road close to the playpark. Members of the community council present agreed to raise this for the community council to discuss at their next meeting.

Alex asked about the potential to display tourism information in the windows of the old visitor centre. The possibility that the building may have just been sold was mentioned.

David asked if the presence of a tourist information hub in the Mission foyer was to be repeated in 2019. Willie confirmed it would be, and Greg spoke of the success and importance of this, having served as volunteer staff at the tourism hub through 2018.

On behalf of Andy Summers, Greg asked about the 'marine room' and plans to make use of it, arguing that if to be used for expanded tourism info/displays and local retail space, then it would need setting up over winter/spring to be ready for the tourism season. There was wider discussion about the space, including whether it needed opening up with window and door at the front or could just be utilised by repainting and internal lighting.

Chris asked about the Discover Assynt website, or its replacement, and seeking subscriptions from those listed / to be listed on the site.

Willie responded that a new site is planned to be launched in March, and that this would need to be a new site as the old one can't easily be made mobile-friendly. It would still reuse some text and image content from the old site. It was explained that ADT had been asked to take on the loose entity which was Discover Assynt, and has done so.

Alex mentioned a cultural trip fund for high-school-age people in Assynt, which has now nearly expired and used up its funds, wondering if ADT would be willing to continue this, at a cost of around £400 per year.

Willie asked people for their opinions on this, and people were generally in favour.

Alex also asked about the potential for ADT to help with an 'Assynt Makeover'. A planned project to create new signs on entry-points to Assynt in partnership with Highland Stoneware was mentioned in relation to this.

Suggested that Drumbeg's Gardening Club be asked about contributing bulbs to plant in some areas around Assynt. The meeting then ended.