

B0617A

Draft Minutes of meeting of Board of Directors of Assynt Crofters Trust 19th June 2017 , Trust Office, Stoer

Present: Donnie MacLeod (Chairman), Ray MacKay (Vice Chairman), Marion MacLeod, Clare Belshaw, Carol Anne MacRae, Willie MacLeod, Matthew Bulch, John Morrison, Roddy Kerr, Bob Cook arrived 8.05pm
Roger Kershaw, Ian MacKenzie, Matthew MacKenzie
In attendance: Jeanette McCarthy, Sandra Callus,

Website

Kirsty MacLeod reported the new website was ready to go live and brought up the site on a laptop for all present to see. Kirsty asked if we wanted a new domain name or stay with what we have at present. As Bob was late in arriving this evening it was decided to wait for his thoughts as to whether we change domain name from; **“assyntcrofterstrust”** to **“the assyntcrofterstrust”**
Kirsty left the meeting at 7.45pm

1. Apologies: Davy Tyson, Hugh MacRae, Anne MacCrimmon, James Morrison

2. Minutes of last Meeting; Proposed by Willie MacLeod Seconded by Ray MacKay

3. Matters Arising

- (i) **Item 9 on Agenda** – Carol Anne apologised and said the email she received from John was sent a while ago and not current as she had originally thought. Item 9 will be discussed in full at this meeting
- (ii) **Affordable Housing** – Ray reported that there are a few possible options/suggestions to be investigated and the housing company want to meet up with Roddy and visit the site at Clashnessie. No feasibility study is needed as planning excavation has been granted for the site. We need suggestions on how to proceed and once the company give findings Ray will forward to all.
- (iii) **Boats** - Donnie is looking into loading arrangements for the wheelie boat.
Boat at Culkein has been moved to a site that is more accessible for getting in and out of boat.

4. Deer Management Group

Ray reported SNH remain unhappy with Victor Clements’s draft deer management plan for The Assynt Peninsula Sub Group. The main area of dispute is the base line count from which the target culls are produced.

Ray informed all present that he has stood down as Chair of the Group; as yet no one has taken the chair.

David Allison from Reay Estate is convinced that the new chair should write a letter of support for the draft plan.

Victor Clements has said he would write a letter of support and Ray will too on behalf of the Trust.

Ray will attend an SNH Board meeting on 29th of this month. It is thought that SNH will ask the SNH Board for approval to impose a Section 8 Control Order. Ray will update the Board at the next Meeting.

Deer Group have agreed stag cull figures; Ardvar - 15, ACT – 36, JMT - 23

5. Crofting Admin

None

6. Income/Expenditure

Jeanette passed around cash flow charts for all to peruse.

Solar Panels received money at last

Angling Permits up on last year

7. Appointment Celebrant Project Manager

After much discussion it was decided to advertise this post – 10 hours per week at £10 per hour.

Ray and Bob will interview and they have the authority of the Board to appoint. **Update at next meeting**

8. Boat Maintenance Person

After discussing what this post would involve it was agreed by all present that Jeanette will contact Callum Millar and ask if he would be interested in maintaining/ repairing boats and Trust property plus monitoring the herbivore impact study. This would be on a self contractor basis. **Jeanette will update at next meeting.**

9. Stoer Lighthouse Van

Leigh Sedgley has confirmed that she will no longer run her van after this season. A letter will be sent to Leigh stating The Trust will not purchase the van but plan to do something with the site themselves.

John Morrison said maybe monies from AH could be used to build buy something but Donnie said this would have to be cleared by accountants. **Jeanette to contact accountants**

To be discussed at next meeting.

10. Year End Accounts

Copies given to all present - **Passed**

11. A.O.C.B.

Roddy relayed a request from ACC of a donation from the Trust that would be put to buy a few defibrillators which hopefully will be distributed throughout the area; Maybe Stoer Lighthouse/Hall on the North Assynt Estate. All agreed £600 donation.

Jeanette had received a letter from the Christmas Lights Fund asking for a donation. All agreed £100 donation.

Assynt Hydro - Matthew reported that John, James and himself attended an Open Day down south where they were given a guided tour of turbines whose principle was the same as AH. Matthew said they had come away with lots of information which has given them ideas re. Turbines, equipment, etc. e.g. Do they replace generator, runner and control unit system –decommission then recommission ? when the time comes. A Lot to think about.

Donnie asked Sandra and Jeanette to leave the Meeting for a few minutes.

Marion said she had been losing lambs and asked if someone could do fox control as well as Paul as she has had trouble contacting him. Bob said he would speak to Davy.

Sandra and Jeanette came back in and Donnie informed him that admin had been given a pay rise – all present agreed unanimously.

Donnie closed meeting at 9.30pm

Next Meeting 14th August 7.30pm