

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Arisaig Community Trust (ACT)**

9 March 2020

7pm

Astley Hall

Present: Iain Macniven, Julie Gordon, Rosemary Bridge

Attending: Alison O'Rourke (Arisaig Eco Project), Pamela King (ACT Housing Project Officer), Zoe Pritchard (ACT Secretary); 11 additional members of the local community

Apologies: Lilian MacDonald, Peter Fleming, Tiina Heinonen

MINUTES OF LAST AGM (13 February 2019): Minutes were approved; proposed by Iain Macniven and seconded by Julie Gordon

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST AGM: The Board have welcomed both new volunteers and new employees. Through successful funding from the Scottish Land Fund, they have secured 2 new posts: Project Officer and Secretary. There has been no formal agreement made about flower displays around the village. This could be included in the community consultations which will take place in order to gather more feedback on the Shorefront development and improvements.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman's Report was presented by Julie Gordon. In her report she wished to extend her thanks and gratitude to all Board Members, volunteers and employees - both previous and current - for their support and hard work. There have been some changes on the Board since the last AGM in February 2019 - Jane Foster stepped down, as did Pamela King - to become Housing Project Officer. Paul Sheard will now be stepping down and the board thanked him for all he has given to ACT.

Thanks was also given to Tiina Heinonen, who was volunteer secretary for the last couple of years. Kyle Woolfenden has replaced Annamarie Douglas to join Pauline Cunningham as the toilet cleaning team and toilet donations have increased thanks to their hard work. Zoe Pritchard has been employed as Secretary initially for a short period with the view to extending the post. Alison O'Rourke will continue as Eco manager and ACT are delighted to extend her role for another 2 years thanks to a successful application to the Climate Challenge Fund.

Alison Stewart continues to manage the Land, Sea & Islands Centre (LSIC) with a dedicated team of volunteers. This provides ACT's main income. The new iZettle machine which has enabled card payments has been a huge asset. The World War 1 exhibition was the result of joint working between ACT and Arisaig & District Community Council (ADCC) and special thanks go to Susan Carstairs and Alison Stewart for all their hard work. The LSIC continues to host a greater number of community events and is an important hub supporting other community groups. Examples are: talks on SOE, the Shetland bus, the road to the isles; hosting events like the garden trail in June, bonfire night refreshments, and CPR/defib training, a workshop space for the Arisaig Americana Music Festival. Bill's shed opened officially in February last year. Since then, the workshop area has been fitted with cupboards, shelving and a heater. The car park has also been marked out, all thanks to Peter Fleming. The new build was used during the Festival of Running and Arisaig Americana Festival and by some other community groups.

It was noted that much of ACT's growth has resulted from successful funding applications, the main one being from the Scottish Land Fund which was the second highest award in Scotland. Progress is being made with the purchase of the land and a local builder (S & K MacDonald) has been selected after the recent tendering process. ACT has also been successful in getting through the expression of interest stage of the current Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to help pay for some of the shorefront improvements. An application has been submitted to the SSE Sustainable Fund for monies towards an extension to the LSIC. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to manage all ACT's village assets and projects and thanks was given to all those people who give their time (including tradesmen) to help make things happen. The

Trust is putting together volunteer policies and a database which should help support both volunteers and ACT in taking these new and challenging projects forwards.

ACT continues to be pro-active in working with other local groups including the Community Council, gardeners' club, Road to the Isles Facilities Group (RTIFG) and supporting events like Arisaig games, Mallaig pool and leisure running event, Arisaig Americana Music Festival. Ways to manage increased tourism remains high on the agenda this year and ACT have held two public meetings so far on how increased tourist numbers impact on our village. It is hoped that by purchasing the area of shorefront land, improvements can be made to existing parking, seating, information boards and more. More community consultations will take place.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rosemary Bridge presented a report looking at the finances for the year 2019-2020. Full accounts for the period 2018-2019 were made available to members at the meeting and are also available on the website. It was noted that most incoming funds are the outcome of successful funding applications and are therefore what Restricted and may only be directed to a specific project. Unrestricted funding is undoubtedly ACT's main challenge to ensure that sufficient funds are generated to cover general administration and staffing costs.

NEW DIRECTORS – ELECTION: Paul Sheard and Peter Fleming stood down: Peter was available for re-election; Judy Budge stood down but didn't wish to stand for re-election. Two nominations were put forward: Steve Westwood and Gary Reavell. Peter Fleming, Steve Westwood and Gary Reavell were duly elected.

AOCB & QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR: Pamela King was asked to give an update on the community housing project and other land purchases. No further questions were presented.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Refreshments were served and general discussion took place following the meeting.