**Acharacle Community Company**

**Minutes of meeting**

**13th October 2016**

**Those present**: Pauline King / Iain Houston / Ilanora Sharp/ Becky Dacre

**1 Apologies**: Scott Fletcher/Sharon Cameron/Emily Cornelius

**3** **Treasurers report:**

Main acct: 3770.94 savings £2541.91

Centre acct: £57,341.12 Project acct: £10,647.53

Retiral of directors: decided that Adam Hough should be retired with Companies House. He appears to have moved out of the area but hasn’t officially let us know. IH to invite Scott to next meeting and ask if he is still interested in being a director.

**5** **Minutes from last meeting**: IH proposed/IS seconded approval.

**4 Lesleys report**

Lunch bunch want to have a Christmas lunch at Loch Shiel Hotel with all volunteers and directors. They are willing to pay difference in cost as they don’t normally pay for Christmas lunch in the centre. PK suggested ACC paying for whole lunch. Agreed to pay for whole lunch.

*Public part of meeting*

**Phin arrived**

**Others present: Kate Atchley(m) / Ruth Lewis / Joanne Matheson(m)/Jemma Brett/ Anne Dye/Alistair Dawes(m)/Arlette George/Izzy Buchan/Lisa Houston(m)**

Proposed new directors – Phin Manasseh - proposed IH / seconded IS.

Sharon Cameron – proposed PK / seconded IH

**7** **Use of centre**- lease to be signed to agree with Royal Mail for use of car park at centre as PO no longer available. IH read out details of lease. Neighbours to be approached by letter (Emily/Gilbert and Diana) before agreement signed.

**8** **Moidart communications**

David Kirkham wants members to be involved. To be a radio based system so will help all within a line of sight. IH gave out a list of postcodes to be affected. Those who aren’t reached by the signal can apply to bid for a voucher which would go to the communications company and form a grant so they can maybe improve/provide a signal. Applicable to those receiving less than 2mps b’band.

IH - to write to members explaining what to do to apply. Moidart communications is to contact rest of community. Advertise too. Coming through ACCouncil too.

Speeds queried? Superfast? IH not sure but will be high.

Timescale (AD) – IH small dish on house. Not sure of timescale.

It will be a community company so will be run by the community.

**9** **Car park working party** – to paint wooden posts (to form space lines) for gravel areas and mark out remaining car park spaces. Café is closed for 3 weeks. Various offers of help, but date not fixed as weather dependent.

**10** **Sgoil** **na Coille**– work to do - flashing to building and improve paths. To write to members to see if any expertise out there (BD).

**11** **Centre future** – IH explained about SLA and lease for centre and that these end in December 2017. Challenge to keep open. IH wants to engage stakeholders/users to get support to keep centre open. IH has triggered process with Highland Council for asset transfer, but need to be sure it is viable.

IS various places in Highland region that have done this process for their community centres. Funding may be available for intergenerational use of building. SLA in Tongue provides £56,000 a year for running of their centre.

Query about whether this has been visited? Not yet, but hopeful. Once building is owned by ACC then can get funding more easily. PK 2 strands to work needed – one to try to get building handed over / business plan has to be written to negotiate another SLA. RL mentioned Claire Gunner (health officer) who is keen to have another place to come out to. LH suggested giving people a list of what already happens in centre - Lesley to do.

IH – communications for ACC – how best to communicate. Need to get better – Monthly Newsletter.

**12** **ACC membership**

**13 AOB**

**Discussion about PO Lease:**

KA – explained communications re-lease of PO and wants to see M&A’s. She was handed a copy. Thinks ACC are abandoning their principles to support a local business. Meeting in favour. Thinks decision should reflect the wish of the community. Read out ACC aims. This local business uses imported goods so not supporting local producers. Discussion should have been a special item and not within AOB. IH explained that it has been decided upon therefore was not an item on agenda. RL not aware of Member of ACC as opposed to member of community.

Discussion about 25 microbusinesses that JM craft outlet would support? IS – asked if within our area? RL majority are (thinks).

IH – gave opportunity to proposed businesses to put forward their business plan on 19 Sept.

RL – previous public meeting (7.9.16) – consensus was that the craft business was best. Various opportunities were explored at that meeting (IH).

KA – feels the need to understand why decision made.

IS and PK have been directors for 5yrs and are passionate about ACC. Need to be in good health and do good business.

KA – why has business decision overridden popular decision? IH – need income from our property. It is the only income for the ACC. Jemma’s proposal gave improvements to building and guaranteed income.

Jemma stated that she was approached by members of community to open retail unit and they decided to do that. Changed bid according to community requests. Willing to take other products if suitable. Want to run workshops (food /diet). To help raise awareness within community of health and well-being. Like to bring their knowledge to the community.

IB – queried process? – support for craft at the mtg – how did we get to other option?

AG – can use this as an opportunity to recreate ACC? Build trust/communicate/

AD – how to take it forward? Could Jemma be at centre. PK said under lease - not allowed to run business from centre.

IH – explained about other opportunities. JM not opening next year at hall.

PM – could be space for another building at the PO. Need to talk to planners. Could be temporary structure, so could be built quickly.

LH – cannot change decision with people at this meeting.

RL – public meeting asked public to come along to discuss what is to happen with empty site. IH made it clear that it was an ideas meeting then directors to decide - Jemma’s bid more successful. RL - Was it made clear to public that finance was to over- ride public opinion?

Place for all businesses?

JM – doesn’t need help with business planning but does need help with premises. Cannot wait any longer. Cannot support others and has to prioritise her own income.

Container suggested?

IH will look into another building on that site.

AGM date Wed 30th Nov.

Next meeting – 10th Nov

Meeting closed at 9.50pm