

Assynt Development Trust

Note of meeting – Assynt Leisure Centre

29th October 2025 – 4.45-6:45 pm

Present:- Elaine MacAskill (**EMacA**), Marianne Hutchison (**MH**), Lana Bracewell (**LB**), Kari Knight (**KK**), Ewen McLachlan (**EMcL**), Adam Pellatt (AP). Nigel Goldie (**NG**)

Apologies:- Nigel Goldie (**NG**), Catriona Maclean (**CM**), Amy Mitchell (**AM**)

1. Minutes and Actions of the last meeting (24th September 2025)

The minutes were approved. Matters arising were discussed.

2. Website changes and Newsletter

Local web contractor looking at what would be involved in the Wix transfer to wordpress. KK has been talking to a company in Inverness about a re-design/refresh of the logo and website design and into involvement with a graphic designer for using Canva for developing a newsletter. KK is also looking to involve Assynt Crofters' Trust and Assynt Foundation in a shared newsletter. It was agreed that we should look at funding applications to perhaps North Highland Initiative or others for the costs of re-design and the newsletter. Also to have a look around at what other community groups may be planning.

3. Financial

Just Enterprise have just been engaged as management accountants and have 6 fully funded days to provide a thorough assessment of the current financial systems in place and help set up systems to ensure we are functioning well going forward. The assessment may lead to more work required, especially with a view to the Housing development starting.

4. Glebe Land

All of Adam's recommendations about building design were agreed. EMacA also agreed to look at the compensatory planting area and how it could be expanded, as part of Woodland Trust's part in the Glebe Project and perhaps in combination with an Assynt Foundation woodland proposal - the area on Assynt Foundation land adjacent to the proposal though is Badnaban common grazing, so if anything is developed they must be involved.

5. EBikes

Marianne hosted two sessions for people to inspect e-bikes and make closed bids. Just under £3,000 has been raised through this and it is intended that 25% will be given to Assynt Leisure for storing and administering the bikes. The rest of the money will go into the restricted/allocated fund for Luis Gouveia applicants.

6. ADT Aims and Objectives - Moved to next meeting.

7. Meeting to arrange with the Vestey family.

It was decided to try to arrange a Teams call with Robin Vestey to introduce ADT and its work, perhaps in conjunction with Romany introducing the LLP and feedback on what people are thinking about local development. Check with Romany first and then set up meeting. Start a draft agenda document of things to include in the meeting.

8. Horizon Europe

A possible joint research project was discussed, with a grant application for this with a decision date in 2026.

9. Luis Gouveia

Response pending for recent application, regarding timescale for a decision being needed.

10. Social Enterprise - it was agreed to join a Scottish social enterprise umbrella body (expected to be free membership) for networking possibilities helpful for ADT development.

DONM – 26th November 2025 – 4:45-6:45 – Assynt Leisure

Meeting ended 6:45pm.