



Applecross Community Company (ACC) AGM

Date: 29th April 2025, 6pm
Venue: Applecross Community Hall and on Zoom
Attendees: Chris Ward (Chair) (CW), Gordon Cameron (GC), Rose-marie de Loor (RdL), Marion Gilroy-MacRae (MG-M), Megan MacInnes (MM), Amy Clarkson (AC), Rachel Maxwell (RM), Fiona MacKenzie (FM), Lesley KilBride (LK), Owen Kilbride (OK), Elizabeth Smart (ES), Gregor Watson (GW), Tony Jackson (TJ), Mike Summers (MiS), Mairi Summers (MS), Elodie Mathews (EM), Catherine MacLennan (CM), Derek MacLennan (DM), Lauren Dragone (LD), Marek Dziezok (MD), Anne Helmore (AH) and Una MacLennan (UM)
Apologies: Duncan Fraser (DF), Mark Horsely (MH) and Frances Horsley (FH)
Minutes by: Una MacLennan

No.	Item
1	Welcome by Company Chair: Chris Ward
1.1	CW started the meeting by welcoming the attendees in the room and online. With 105 ordinary members, the attendance met the required quorum.
2	Minutes submitted for adoption
2.1	Minutes of the previous AGM (23rd April 2024) were approved. EM proposed, TJ seconded.
3	Chair's Report
3.1	At 6:05, the attendees were presented with a recent Landward episode featuring MM and GC representing the ACC, showcasing the community transport, filling station and affordable housing site projects. The presentation ended at 6:10.
3.2	CW gave his final Chair's report. Community Transport: The new minibuses, obtained this year, have transported 470 passengers across 4.5K miles. CW noted the importance of allowing children on the peninsula to attend formal swimming lessons. Affordable Housing and Business Units: The masterplan for the site has been published, and architects Dualchas have been hired to design individual houses and supply advice. Community Woodland: CW acknowledged AC's remarkable work in organizing the planting days, planting 5K trees, many from nuts found in Airidh Dhriseag, and developed via the garden project. He thanked all the volunteers who participated.

3.3	CW gave thanks to previous staff, Sean (asset manager) and Saara (development assistant) and to Director DF who is also stepping down but helped ACC massively with his advice and knowledge on the fuel pumps. UM has joined to pick up the development assistant role and expanded to cover asset management and the community transport project. MH has also joined as a lead driver for the school transport project. CW thanked all current staff members; Maureen (bookkeeper), Jim (filling station), Lousie (cleaner), Calum (AppleNet). He thanked MS for her work in organizing the community transport project though now focusing on An Tobar, to MM for managing the company. He also thanked fellow Directors; GC, MGM, RdL and RM who had been co-opted by the Board in January.
3.4	CW expressed gratitude towards the ACT Board which manages AppleNet, the Filling Station and the Directors; OK, DF, Ewen and RdL. CW noted how important the ACT Board to ACC. CW gave thanks to all volunteers and the whole community of Applecross.
4	Presentations from the Development Officers about key activities and plans for 2025
4.1	The Development Officers highlight last year's key projects through the three themes of ACC's current action plan. Affordable Housing: MM recapped the last year such that the master plan was completed by Anne Nesbitt for a range of sixteen 1, 2 & 3 bedroomed houses, as well as four business units, designed specifically for the community to live in. The project has drawn inspiration from nearby crofting townships and has been greatly influenced by those who attended various consultation events. MM gave thanks to all those who attended. The design work is being carried out as stated by CW.
4.2	Local Economy: <u>Toilets and Filling Station:</u> MM restated their importance to our community, for locals and visitors alike. <u>AppleNet:</u> MM reviewed last year's Wi-Fi project; the infrastructure has been examined to strengthen reliability, and the overall infrastructure has been upgraded, as at the main connector in Kyle. MM gave special thanks to Calum and Lumi's hard work. <u>An Tobar:</u> MM reports on the community building- named 'An Tobar' by the community. This year ACC will be focusing on fundraising and a redevelopment plan for the building with MS as the project manager.
4.3	Community and Wellbeing <u>Community Transport</u> MM recapped that the ACC received two minibuses in the later part of 2024. The buses provide school transport and being used frequently by the primary school and nursery as well as the wider community. This role provides jobs for drivers MH and Agnes. Special thanks to MS for beginning the project. <u>Community Woodlands</u> AC presents the community woodland project, informing that the project is now in year 2 of the 4-year National Lottery Heritage Fund plan, the year of the tree. AC summaries the past year starting off with a community consultation- allowing ACC to apply for the Forestry Grant scheme. There were many Gaidhlig heritage events taken place, volunteer sessions and a deer fence and compost toilet installed- just in

	time for the big tree planting event, planting 5K trees through 72 volunteers. AC highlights events that will happen this year, working with Gaidhlig Development Officer Ann and the Historical society, in May there will be a Green Health Walk and woodland volunteering opportunities. On July the 12th, there will be a biodiversity event. The ACC are thankful to the Forestry Grant Scheme for contributing to the project.
4.4	CW asks if anyone has questions and MiS asks which contributions were made to that event and AC answers that there was a fine contribution from the Forestry Grant Scheme and the Applecross Trust.
5	Treasurer's Report
5.1	RdL gave an overview of the Treasurer's report to go through the finances behind each project. RdL notes that the ACC and ACT have two separate accounts which must be audited and are costly. However, next year the regulations will change requiring only companies making over £1 million are required an audit. RdL remarks, however, that it is good to know that all accounts are legally sound.
5.2	RdL displayed a summary of the financial reports for the projects of 2024-25. RdL gives special thanks to Maureen (bookkeeper).
5.3	RdL noted profits have decreased since last year; the Board has been reviewing pricing policies; it is important for ACC to keep their prices as low as possible but with the cost of everything else increasing there may have to be some changes
5.4	RdL then described how ACC's core funding is being reduced and how this illuminates the importance of ACT and Apple Juice (hydro scheme) which are working to buy back shares from shareholders. RdL thanks the Apple Juice Board; Ewen, MGM, OK, for increasing their contributions to the cause. RdL noted that our funders HIE will kindly fund ACC for an extra year.
5.5	CW added that he had been desperate for younger members to be involved with the company and that he had seen this happen, starting with Kenny. He also noted the importance of having a self-sustained company and thanked MM and RdL for striving successfully towards this goal.
5.6	AC also added a formal thank you to the community steering group; MS, MGM, GW, MM, CW, Frankie, Andy, Tom and Lynn for their strong guidance on projects
6	Election of Directors
6.1	ES, proposed by Barbra, was seconded by TJ to join as a director, all those present agreed.
6.2	DM, proposed by Valerie, was seconded by GC to join the Board as a director, all those present agreed.
6.3	RM, who had been co-opted throughout the year, stepped down and was re-elected. All those present agreed.
6.4	GC officially steps down as Director. CW steps down as chair and Director, then GC is reelected as chair; RM proposes and is seconded by TJ. All those present agreed.
6.5	RdL officially steps down and is reelected; MD proposes and OK seconds. All those present agreed.
7	Any Other Business
7.1	CW states that he is grateful to all the directors for all their hard work and time and has enjoyed his time on the Board.
7.2	GC, the new chair, expects to vacate this role in two years, followed by MGM. He is looking forward to working with the directors and leading projects that benefit the community and grateful for all support and scrutiny.

8	Date of next AGM
8.1	The next AGM was provisionally set for 21 st of April 2026.