

## ARGYLL & THE ISLES TOURISM COOPERATIVE LTD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 2.00pm, 24 NOVEMBER 2020 ONLINE – ZOOM

### MINUTE

The meeting had a delayed start due to issues with Zoom links - formally started at 2.10pm

#### 1. Sederunt PRESENT

Directors:

Iain Jurgensen (Chair) (IJ)

Gavin Dick (GD)

Neil MacKay (NM)

Emma Clark (EC)

Fiona McPhail (connection issues) (FM)

Eleanor Argyll, Honorary Chair (EA)

Members:

Virginia Sumsion, FFA (VS)

Niall Macalister, Hall Explore Kintyre &  
Gigha/Torrisdale (NMH)

Donna Chisholm, Visit Bute/Mount Stuart  
(DC)

Jane Ireland, Slanj (JI)

Alison Jones, Dev Coll/Coll Bunkhouse (AJ)

Andrew Spence, Bid4Oban (AS)

Martin and Janine Ashall, Fyne Sea Tours  
(MA/JA)

Beth MacLeod, Knockderry House (BM)

Iain Fleming, Cowal Marketing Group (IF)

Heather Thomas Smith, Heathery Heights  
(HTS)

Jill Bowis, Kintaline House (JB)

Observers:

Carron Tobin (CT)

Jean Ainsley (JA)

Helen Dick (HD)

JA, HD, VS and AS left at 3pm due to prior commitments.

#### FORMAL APOLOGIES –

**Directors** - Andy Roger and Calum Ross

**Members** – Julie Oliphant

All non-attendees agreed by default to vote by proxy via Chair (no-one advised to the contrary).

#### 2. Welcome from the Chair

IJ welcomed all to the meeting and explained this was the first online AGM – pleased to have twenty-two attendees including our Honorary Chair – the Duchess of Argyll, our directors, continuing DMO members and our all-important new direct members. IJ also commented on this being an unprecedented year with the challenges being faced by the industry and each business.

IJ explained both Calum Ross and Fiona McPhail were standing down as coopted directors at the beginning of the meeting.

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## 3. Minute of Last AGM and Matters Arising

Matters Arising

5 - Membership scheme to be developed – done and now up and running

7 – resolution signed by IJ and GD and submitted to Companies House with amended Memorandum of Association

8 – immediately following the AGM Ian Wright withdrew from the directorship for Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree. This has remained a vacancy throughout 2019-20. Various updates requested from MMI, no director nomination forthcoming. This vacancy is open to any local member under the new scheme and nominations are invited.

9 - vicechair not appointed.

10 – Duchess of Argyll – Eleanor was invited and agreed to continue as Honorary Chair

11 – advisory group format was agreed but has not been progressed not least with Covid-19 but plan to progress over coming months with all DMO/membership groups who have joined AITC entitled to a seat.

Minute – Emma Clark proposed it as an accurate record and Gavin Dick seconded. Agreed Minute signed by chair for the records.

## 4. Membership Review

IJ reported AITC currently have thirty-eight fully signed up members and a significant number in the pipeline. 10 DMO members plus two sectoral have received annual invoices for 2020-21. MMI are opting not to continue as a member of AITC – letter received on Friday. IJ flagged it is worth all reflecting on value of AITC as the strategic voice and player in the past and even more so now during the pandemic. Member benefits are very different from those offered by local DMOs (primarily in-destination) with the strategic campaigns, seat at national tables, product development and digital improvement. IJ acknowledged money is inevitably tight and it comes down to Value for Money and a clear value proposition for DMO and direct membership. IJ flagged OLTA has opted to stop being a membership organisation and direct its members to AITC and for AITC to deliver mini campaigns on their behalf subject to sufficient membership and working in partnership with others including BID4OBAN. IJ flagged AITC's focus must be its own future sustainability to support this all-important sector in Argyll now more than ever.

IJ flagged that current members have a role to play in helping promote wider membership to ensure the future sustainability of AITC.

## 5. Annual Report & Annual Accounts

Annual report issued to all members prior to the meeting and presented by CT using screen share.

Jean Ainsley commented briefly that the accounts demonstrate another positive year and that AITC are very strongly positioned to represent the sector. JA requested any comments or queries be fed through via Zoom chat or email. No comment received.

**Accounts** – IJ explained they had been approved by Exec (IJ, GD and CR) in April and ask they be ratified at AGM – EC proposed the accounts be approved and NM seconded. Accounts to be signed by GD as Director of Finance and submitted to Companies House.

## 6. Elected Directors

As part of due diligence AITC seeks 1/3rd step down at each AGM. Both Emma Clark and Andy Roger had agreed to step down and were happy to be re-elected unless any other nominations for Islay, Jura and Colonsay / Loch Lomond and Clyde Sea Lochs were put forward – none received in advance. No nominations at the meeting. NM proposed they both be re-elected, and GD seconded.

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Gavin Dick, Iain Jurgensen and Neil MacKay continue in their roles as elected directors.

IJ re-iterated the Board are seeking a Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree director nomination. IJ highlighted it is very important to have full representation now more than ever as we battle with recovery from the pandemic so will proactively seek nominations following today – and invited any suggestions to be forwarded.

## 7. Coopted Directors

The AGM agreed the previous coopted directors be coopted again - Fiona McPhail for marine tourism activity and Calum Ross for strategic network – proposed by NM and seconded by JI.

## 8. Office Bearers

Honorary Chair – Eleanor confirmed she was delighted to continue in this role – proposed by GD and seconded by JI

Chair – IJ stated he was happy to continue – proposed by NM and seconded by GD

Vice Chair – IJ advised that EC had been approached and agreed to become vice chair – proposed by NMH and seconded by JI.

Finance Director - GD happy to continue – proposed by NM and seconded by EC

NM asked to record thanks to the Exec Team (IJ, GD and CR working with CT) – important to recognize the extra work being done during lockdown and representation at many meetings and forums on behalf of Argyll and our tourism business interests.

## 9. Appointment of Accountant

Ainsley Smith & Co – continued appointment agreed – proposed by EC and seconded by GD.

## 10. A.O.C.B.

Nothing submitted in advance – call for any Q&A

IJ invited EA to say a few words. EA commented that she recognised everyone was doing their best and the current situation was so difficult. She recognised the STERG tiered approach was a steady attempt and the best way to pull out this was with the vaccine and all working together. She commented on the A83 RBT and flagged that the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke had campaigned for a decent road and that Torquil who is the current Duke is 13<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll.

Comments from the chat box were flagged as follows

- EC noted Argyll continuing in Tier 2 from FM announcement during the meeting
- LB confirmed OLTA as well as AITC were at the Scotland Reconnect (EXPO) event
- JB queried if slides would be shared – confirmed
- VS queried the link for the staycation film –  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQTwsDWf5c>
- JB requested CHArts focus be on arts and heritage
- AS and JA noted had to leave at 3pm
- HTS and JB commented on DECLARE – which VS had recently agreed to and if AITC would be considering - <https://www.tourismdeclares.com/> - AITC response being reviewed and in liaison with WildScotland and SailScotland and others

## 11. Date of next Annual General Meeting.

Proposed date 16 Nov 2021, 2pm – TBC nearer the time.

IJ closed the meeting at 1535, thanking everyone for joining and wished everyone as good a festive break as possible in circumstances.