



Minutes of the fourth Annual General Meeting of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company held at 7pm on Wednesday 8th August 2012 at Kames Recreation Hall.

1. Welcome & Apologies

David Blair introduced himself as Vice Chair of the board and welcomed the members to the fourth Annual General Meeting of Kilfinan Community Forest Company. He read out the company's mission statement and principle activities. He introduced the KCFC Board of Directors who include Rob Blair, Andrew Graham-Weall, Penny Graham-Weall and Eve MacFarlane. Apologies were received from the following Directors: Rob Borruso. Apologies were received from the following Members: Mary Stevenson, Michaela Hunter and Ian Holt.

2. Minutes of last AGM held on Wednesday 19th October 2011 at Kames Church Hall at 7pm was proposed as correct by Rob Blair and seconded by Vanessa Barlow.

3. Chair Report

David Blair began the Chair Report for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 by thanking Eve MacFarlane, Penny Graham-Weall, Eamon King and Ailsa close for getting the Trustees Report ready in time for the AGM. He said it was a good and concise report of the past year's activities and thanked all the directors who served during that period for all their volunteering and hard work in the previous year. He went on to thank all the other volunteers, in particular highlighting the work of Kings Court and of John Moran and Heather Nevay in developing KAG and the producers' Markets. He also thanked all the contractors who had donated time and skills and Sara Maclean and Jean Donaldson of the Growing Green Team and Dave Bannister, Scott Hood and Sean Convery of the Forest Operations Team for all their hard work.

Review of the Period's Activities

The second year of CCF funding enabled the team to build on the previous year's work. The Carbon Savings Officer and Administrative Officer were retained and a team of forest workers, consisting of 1 supervisor and 2 workers, were also employed. We were also awarded funding for a two-year Development Officer role by HIE and Argyll Leader, and Eamon King came into post in July 2011.

- Much of our work during the year focused on carbon saving activities and awareness-raising, including the launch of the 'Cowal Car Share' scheme to encourage car sharing and reduce carbon emissions. A path was built that provided pupils from Tighnabruaich Primary School with a safe shortcut through woodland for a walking and bus route to school.
- We investigated renewable energy sources and a wind turbine grid and access feasibility study and a hydro feasibility study were both carried out. A meteorological mast was erected to determine if the area has enough wind to make it viable.
- The Kyles Allotment Group go from strength to strength. In total, 23 beds in the polytunnel were used by members who grew a variety of produce. In addition, outdoor beds were constructed for the members, including beds for the less able, and a cabin erected. Regular Producers' Markets were held throughout the year at the Kames Recreational Hall which showcased local food and crafts. In March 2012, the Kyles Allotment Group took on the running of the Producers' Markets.

- A community compost facility was constructed with timber from the forest, providing a drop-off area, turning point, hot-boxes and maturation area.
- A number of events were held over the year, including a hugely successful 'Tree to Table' event and a Community Tree Planting event in March 2012. Volunteers played a crucial role over the year. Over 3,420 hours of volunteer time added value to the work in the forest and engaged people in a hands on way.

David Blair asked for any questions from the members in attendance. No questions were asked but Andrew Graham-Weall pointed out that it was a lot to achieve in one year.

4. Future Development

KCFC Development Officer Eamon King talked about plans for the future development of the forest. He shared the draft master map for the forest that he had prepared which show the plans for the project development area (PDA), including crofts, self-build plots and recreation area. He explained that this has now been sent to Argyll and Bute Council for initial comments.

He explained that he was seeking funding for 'phase 3' of the project, which includes a new section of the road, a timber processing yard and a garden retail centre. He is also seeking funding for recreational facilities, including walking, cycling, opening up the Kilfinan Right of Way and other heritage activities. He has also approached contractors to come on board as partners to fell the timber in the PDA. He said that he is currently seeking financing to take the hydro project to the pre-planning stage and could see installation by autumn 2013. We will have completed the wind turbine pre-planning stage by autumn 2013 and, if all goes well and the community supports it, hope to have a wind turbine up and running by spring 2014. This could bring in a lot of revenue.

Eamon King publicly thanked Hugh Allen for his help in the office and asked if there were any questions.

- Hugh Allen passed on a message from Heather Nevay and John Burke that they value their privacy and would like to see the burn undisturbed. Eamon noted this and promised full communication but could not guarantee that there would be no disruption as timber lorries would need to use the main entrance.
- Vanessa Barlow asked if crofters could go into partnership with KCFC to clear the land for crofts. Eamon said he would consider any ideas.
- Hugh Allen asked what would happen to the roots of the felled trees in the crofting area. Eamon explained that roots would be removed from the building area but it would be up to each crofter to then work around the roots on the rest of the area.
- Hugh Allen asked why we don't just cream off money from commercial wind turbines. David Blair explained that more communities are opting to buy their own as there is more money to be made and it puts communities in control.
- Steve Williamson asked if it was worth planning for more wind turbines. Eamon explained that there wasn't room. It might be possible if KCFC were to buy additional forest

5. Election of Directors

Rob Borruso, who had been co-opted onto the board, was officially brought on to the board. There were no objections. No further nominations had been received at the KCFC office. David Blair asked if there were any nominations for the members present. Vanessa Barlow proposed Willie

McAllen and Andrew Graham-Weall seconded. Penny Graham-Weall proposed Steve Williamson and Eve MacFarlane seconded. Everyone welcomed the new directors to the board.

6. Financial statement

Penny Graham-Weall, Treasurer of KCFC gave a brief summary of finance for last year on the Climate Challenge Funding and the unrestricted funds position.

- Total income in the period was £210,800 and total expenditure was £235,164.

7. Appointment of the independent financial examiner

It was proposed that Ailsa Close of Argyll Accounting in Dunoon be appointed as Independent Financial Examiner of the KCFC accounts and this was approved by members present.

8. Any other Business

Hugh Allen brought up the issue of membership. He suggested that there should be a £10 membership fee and one level of membership for all. He felt excluded because he could not become a full member because he didn't live full time in the area. The board agreed to look at this issue but explained that KCFC is a local charity.

The meeting concluded by David thanking all for coming along and invited the audience with the opportunity to stay for a chat with Directors with tea and coffee.