

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office at 5pm, Wednesday 20th November 2013

Present – David Blair, Steve Williamson, Robert Borruso, Fiona Hamilton, Fraser Brown, Jamie Chaplin-Brice and Nikki Woolf

Apologies – Willie McAllan

Minutes of the previous meeting – 5th November, proposed correct by DB and seconded by SW.

Operations Manager Report

Access Road

- The Board agreed that the road is in a poor state. J C-B confirmed that the Macraes are due in on Saturday to make repairs. Agreed that this is a temporary solution and ongoing repairs are necessary. Further repairs needed at the top – Macraes can't come in until next Wednesday 27th Nov; J C-B to check their hourly rate. Instead it was suggested that it might be best to hire in a 3 ton dumper and get Alec/ Colin to make repairs, to allow for better ongoing management of the road. FB to find out about hiring John MacNaughton's digger and DB to contact Alistair Lindsey to find out about buying the dumper. Deadline of Thursday 21st November to find out.
- J C-B to get 3 quotes for type I (for finishing) from Alistair Macrae, Bonnar Sand and Gravel and Cowal Sand & Gravel.
- Boat expected next Wednesday – J C-B to ask Andy from EGGER how feasible it is to get timber out (necessary to limit the number of wagons in one day to minimise impact on the road). J C-B to find out from EGGER when the next boat is scheduled and to ensure that KCFC won't be financially penalised in the event of delay. J C-B to find out if EGGER can contribute a donation to go towards fixing the road (due to the volume of wagons).
- Stone is being delivered and put in the wrong place. J C-B has spoken to Mike; happy to pay for digger and driver to be here for 5 days in exchange for stone being dropped off. Digger driver away for 1 month in December so no availability to be here; looking like January but will be a lighter machine, in which case J C-B will negotiate 2 weeks' work (to put spur road in). J C-B to make sure they know that the wagons need to drive carefully. Stone to be put in the right place or not at all.

Harvesting

- Finished, forwarder getting logs out.

Electricity

- Off until Thursday. Paul and Colin felling along power lines.

Rhododendron clearance

- Ross Petro into second phase (out of 3); expecting invoice shortly. 1st claim likely to be January; second invoice to pay end of Jan/ beginning of Feb.

Sawmill/ shed

- Erection of shed expected early Dec; J C-B has written confirmation that this is the case. Concrete to pour for sawmill to sit on (once shed is up).

General Operations

- Shed needs to be tidier.
- J C-B requested that any Director instructions for Colin and Paul are communicated through him.

Long Term Forest Plan

- With FCS; because SRDP is changing they will not look at it before Christmas. To be signed off next year because entered this year.

Path condition

- School path not in great condition; NW to make up a sign (uneven/ slippery). To be finished with type 1 from top of the road.

Telehandler and ATV

- Purchased and awaiting delivery.

Treasurer report

(WM absent so NW provided report)

- Updated info sent to Social Investment Scotland – they have approved our application. Drawing down £20K (for 1st instalment Ross Petro invoice – to be paid before the end of November). When the paperwork is complete they take 1%, then 1% on the 1st payment (before end of November). Thereafter KCFC to pay interest on amount borrowed.
- Phase 3 cash flow – balancing act to get money spent by the end of the year.

- Volunteer project – VAF paid £4900 advance into the RBS account; needs to be taken into account re cash flow.
- Archaeology application to Heritage Lottery Fund almost complete.

Housing

- Planning meeting last week with Paul Farrell and Steven Gove – can't get master plan finished until forwarder has finished. Steven is happy with what we're up to, but Paul is concerned about putting houses on a forestry road. Need to get survey done; RB to update the Board.
- Agreed that the following should go into the master plan: camp site, bunk house, eco burial, croft spur, housing spur, enterprise unit (rent a space). 1st 50m of spur road (croft land behind and second phase of housing in front) to also be included as aspirational.

Operations Building

- Finished – needs cladding.

SSE

- RB is waiting to hear from SSE on switch issue.

AOB

- A G-W met someone at the Edinburgh Art Fayre who would like to commission the production of a wooden sculpture (memorial for their mother and father), to be positioned somewhere in the forest. A G-W liaising with a sculptor from Perth and will update the board in due course.
- Christmas party – taking place at the Waterside (Cobnut Café doing catering); NW finalising arrangements.
- J C-B – Site to be closed over the Christmas period so long as shed work is complete. NW to print posters saying to contact Craig for firewood, with two emergency contact numbers – DB and A G-W.
- Board to have own meeting to discuss contracts for next year.

Date of next meeting – 4th December.