

Monday, 16th December

Present: Steve Williamson, Andrew Graham-Weall, Willie McAllan, Jamie Chaplin-Brice, Fiona Hamilton, Fraser Brown.

Apologies: David Blair, Nikki Woolf,

Steve Williamson welcomed everyone.

Minutes of previous meeting proposed by Andrew, seconded by Willie.

Operation Managers Report

- Health & Safety. Risk assessments are in place for machines, still need method statements for regular tasks and toolbox talks for everyone undertaking these. Traffic Management plan has been started.
- Electricity - the trees remaining that were due to be felled by Ross Petro blew into the power lines causing a power cut. SSE repaired this on Saturday 7th. Jamie is going on a course with SSE due to the non-compliance for the outage.
- Road – half wagons have already left, Boat lined up in January for remainder and a few wagons to leave in December. The road is a lot better, AM has brought the newly adjusted bucket for the telehandler and we are waiting on the tractor bucket. 36 wagons left over the weekend of 7th, leaving little damage.
- Timber retention – Jamie has spoken to Andy who thinks it would be possible to reduce the “management fee” for harvesting our larch to £1.20/tonne rather than £2.40 We are retaining around 20 wagon-loads
- Extraction – A few single wagons are due to leave before Christmas, a boatload is to be lined up in the new year, dates tbc.
- Felling. Jamie has put to EGGER that we are looking to release further felling coupes early next year; spruce prices are high at present as most FCS contracts are currently in larch (until about May) and there is a void in the market. On this basis, releasing the first phase of felling from the Long Term Forest Plan would potentially be a good move; EGGER seem keen. It was suggested that they might sort the road out as well. Other bids will be sought.
- Rhododendron - FCS inspection highlighted mapping issues. Jamie has resolved this however FCS have to correct the claims in order to progress, although it shouldn't delay payments. This is taking a considerable amount of Jamie's time and is not income-generating. However the inspection highlighted that not enough KCFC time is being put toward it. It was suggested that Colin could get involved to keep eye on contractors. Fraser suggested condensing the work into one day for management, rather than lots of hours spread over weeks. Ask for a weekly report from contractor. The Inspection makes it an opportune time to make changes to how the contractors are dealt with.

- Operations building. Larch located for the windows. insulation arrived. Sawmill is needed to make cladding. Colin will make the door. Fraser has supplied silage wrap to protect the building in the meantime.
- Sawmill shed. Arrived today and contractor (Neil, on behalf of Robinsons) is coming to erect it tomorrow. Concrete base to be poured on Friday which is tight to be finished before Christmas. The Mill will be set up after Christmas.
- ATV arrived.
- FSE certification. FSC smallholder contract is yet to be authorised, awaiting confirmation on alterations from FSC before agreement can be made. We will join group scheme asap.
- Paul Meyer is leaving on Friday. He would like anyone available to join him in the Kames for a drink about 7 pm. The Board wish to record their appreciation to him for his work.
- Rubbish. ATV could be used to take it down to the recycling at Suzy's café. If everyone could remember to take some away regularly, Jamie will remind us if it builds up.

Rob's report

- Planning still not happy with the design. Rob offered to build a model of the wall construction in question and demonstrate its strength.
- Gregor hasn't got back to Rob re mapping of site so someone else is being sought.
- Electricity. SSE didn't turn up to fit meter on Friday. They came today and fitted the wrong fuse box. Rob will email David Walsh about the issue and to remind him we are owed money. We are now 6 weeks past the due date. SSE are now considering installing the larger transformer after all.

Treasurer's report

- No budget changes to report. All on track
- Volunteer project. 50% of grant was given up front. Progress report due in on Friday. Summary report needs a training programme for volunteers, including activities that require risk assessments. Director should be looked for to take responsibility for this project, or to take on the finance.

Andrew

After Christmas volunteer afternoons will be started again. Set some aims. Office needs sorted out as it's likely to be in use for at least another year. Nikki and Andrew are discussing marketing. Need to work towards an official opening for the shop. Penny and Andrew are offering 400 tulip bulbs.

AOCB

- Request for Colin to fell the tree behind shed.
- Training on mill booked for 6/7th January, will be put back to 13/14th. Rob will tell SSE that the power needs to be ready or they will have to pay for a generator.
- It was decided to lay a water pipe in the trench up to the sawmill shed as a future-proofing measure.
- Craig is liaising with volunteers from Edinburgh who came last year. He's investigating Creative Scotland's Youth Employment programme. Suggestion that King's Court residents be involved in some way, whether with KCF or Allotment group.
- Hydro – David has confirmed we now have accreditation and confirmation of feed-in tariff. We have one year to implement. Archaeology bid is almost written, which will be final piece needed to complete. Index-linked, tax-free income now guaranteed. The acoustic survey was fine. Just need to decide on provider.
- Staff Contract extensions have been given till June.
- FCS social and planning advisor, James Ogilvy, wishes to visit on February 27th to get an update on the project.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, 7th January, 2014