

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office at 5pm, Wednesday 19th February 2014

Present – Jamie Chaplin-Brice, Fraser Brown, Willie McAllan, Robert Borruso, Fiona Hamilton, Andrew Graham-Weall, David Blair, Nikki Woolf

Apologies – Steve Williamson

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meeting proposed correct – WM and seconded – FH

Housing report

- RB had a meeting in Edinburgh last Mon; there were a few engineering problems with the design (shrinkage was a big issue). Agreed that KCFC needs a drying facility (RB and JCB to discuss how it would work). DB to arrange a meeting w/ Billy Dixon (building control officer) to discuss. RB to create dimension drawings in the next week.
- Master plan – RB had a positive meeting with the architect; need to do a few more drawings and photos of site for the master plan. Engaging professional friends to look over the document. A backup document is also required to explain the rationale.
- Agreed that the housing allocation criteria should be presented at the Community Council meeting on 14th March. A G-W to arrange for 'KCFC housing allocation' to be added to the agenda. Needs to be made clear that we are a long way from accepting applications. RB and NW to work on the allocation criteria ready for the meeting, at which point the master plan will be in presentable form.
- Agreed that councillors should be invited to KCFC for a show-round before the CC meeting. A G-W to organise.

Operations Manager report

Rubbish

- Thanks to those who have helped with the rubbish over the past couple of weeks. The site is tidier and staff morale has improved. We need to continue the good work here to keep everyone happy.
- DB and Colin looked at the compost toilet – this work will be done in March.

Timber

- Egger have removed a further 20-30 wagons since the last meeting, there is about the same to go again, excluding our retained timber.
- JCB Meeting Andy Powell regarding FL2 and 14-18 felling next week.
- JCB met Simon Coleman (Euroforest), they are interested too.

Hardwood

- Agreed we should not buy this in at this stage, but try and source locally if anyone wants to be relieved of it.

Sales

- We have had enquiries for prices and are taking orders for sawn timber. J C-B to print out a price list and e-mail to staff/ directors.

Road

- Thanks to Rob, Craig and volunteers for their work on the road on Tuesday. Roller was a success, but there was diesel stolen (we think) from the machine on Monday night.
- We have a new estimated cost of £43.50/metre for the new road, so we're back to the £65k figure. It was also estimated £6000 for the parking area at the events site (plus VAT). There will be no SRDP funding until 2015 for the new road.

SRDP meeting

- 2014 is oversubscribed as is half of 2015, there will be no money for planting, roads, deer fencing/management plans etc until 2015.

Event space

- RB to send NW an A2 map of the space; brainstorming session to be arranged, to start working on a strategy of where we want everything to go.

Ops Building

- Glass is here for the windows; windows have been made and are ready to install, thanks to Don McInnes.
- Chamfering and stacking happening tomorrow; membrane here and ready to go.
- Possibility of selling compost to KAG to be discussed in due course.

Fencing Course

- The board confirmed they are happy for KCFC to pay for Colin to go on this (£45).

Rhododendron project

- J C-B and Colin have walked the site twice with Ross Petro since the last meeting - there are still snagging points which Ross will resolve before the next inspection. He recognises that some areas require attention and that spraying with dye is essential. JCB to get this in writing.
- £150 was paid from RPID to KCFC for the rhododendron project outline.

Craig's hours

- Sundays – Craig has suggested that his time would be better spent mid-week with Volunteers. However, we will need weekend cover for the outlet building in spring/summer and someone for compost too. WM to discuss with Craig.

LEADER inspection

- LEADER inspection scheduled to take place on 27th Feb.
- Thanks to RB, SW and WM for helping with milling and allowing time for milling of cladding for outlet. Still plenty to do on this, Don has offered to help with the cladding too.

Kames Digger

- Agreed that priorities are the Kilfinan way link, spur and bit around spur road. J C-B to organise for driver to come here to do digging work – so long as he is willing to help out, KCFC will take the stone.

Scott

- RB to organise hours (as per agreed rate).

FSC

- KCFC is now FSC certified.

Treasurer Report

- Land ownership query – agreed that we should suggest to Tilhill that a donation would be appropriate since we are a charity; no conditions.

- Donation from Artemis – money to go towards volunteer training courses. NW to write a letter of thanks and explain what the money is going towards.
- Hydro funding – going to SIS for the bulk of the money; target individuals with business case for loan.
- Looks like we should get the residue of the DO post money from HIE.
- Heritage lottery – 31st March decision.

AOB

- Ardlamont has provisionally offered the forest a big horse for logging. DB to ask Angus Campbell about grazing. Leigh has potentially offered to help us to look after it. Costs/maintenance to be determined. FH to discuss with Tracy.

Date of next meeting – 5th March