

Board meeting minutes – 5th March

Present – David Blair, Steve Williamson, Andrew Graham-Weall, Willie McAllan, Fiona Hamilton, Rob Borruso, Jamie Chaplin-Brice, Nikki Woolf

Apologies – Fraser Brown

Welcome from David

Previous minutes proposed correct – FH and seconded – A G-W

Ops Manager Report

- EGGER has visited, we've still c. 400 tonnes of timber to leave site, but we still have the extraction cost of the larch to pay (around 600 tonnes). We have had a further £3000 from EGGER a week or two ago. JC-B has urged EGGER to get timber away as it will be losing weight.
- EGGER confirmed they could potentially extract a lot of the timber at the top of the site without an additional road – they're keen to start (JC-B still looking at other options). This would amount to c. 6000 tonnes again, leaving the same again for future harvesting.
- JC-B to chase Tom Davies about putting the Long Term Forest Plan on the register.

Donald Digger

- Kilfinan link is done, flat site is ready for second shed and it has done Rob's road/housing area. It returns shortly to Kames.

Compost

- Agreed that KCFC will supply KAG with compost for £5.50 through our store, and £6 to the public. J C-B to order one pallet from Rudi to trial.

Chainsaw course

- First course was held successfully (trial course), no news on main contract with Contour.

Rhodies

- FCS inspection taking place on 17th March. All areas are complete for this, just a matter of going over to check for live parts and rectifying if needs be. Meeting with Ross Petro tomorrow (am) to clarify (JC-B to follow up with an email to ensure we have everything in writing).
- Squad are leaving rubbish around – need to stop this.

Windblow

- Ross Petro has offered the Alstor for Colin to use to help clear windblow, which is due next week. Colin is lined up to do windblow tomorrow with Craig and volunteers. Firewood processing to start again on the week of 17th.

Argyll Woodfuel forum

- Very interesting; JC-B informed the board that the community forest on Mull supplies woodfuel to the local hospital, and could this be a possibility for us to supply the school and doctors surgery. Agreed that we are not currently in a position to be doing this.
- Woodland burials – Ian Hepburn emailing over links. Feasibility study needs to be done.

Machinery services

- Telehandler – to be serviced and provided with a new battery. SW to check over the buggy.
- The mill has a broken curtain clip, there is a new design since ours was made (but ours is out of warranty). A plastic sheath is probably the best solution.

Ops Building

- Thanks to all those who have helped. Electricians finished, just need to finish cladding and interior; then have guttering, landscaping and roofing to do. CW and RB to cut ceiling out of hemlock.
- Need to get this completed in time for spring sales once people start visiting the forest.

Sawmill

- Completed some orders; more trickling in. It would be helpful to clear the windblow from behind the shed in order to complete the cladding for Robinsons to return to fit the guttering.

Sales

- It has been decided that all of our sales will be accounted for in the office on the new invoicing system. This will mean that NW can track all the money that is paid into the bank and therefore we'll be able to keep a closer eye on what we have for different projects/wages etc. It will also clarify sales income vs donations.

Publicity

- HIE has offered to do some publicity for us, via their communications dept. NW to provide them with relevant info. They will visit after April so that'd be a good time to get photos if the sun comes out.

Surveying

- Ian and J C-B have done the Ecological survey and stock check for the 2014-2018 felling. This is funded as part of the FSC plan.

LEADER visit

- Sheila McLean visited on Thursday 27th Feb, she was delighted with progress made and has sent us some stickers for our new equipment.

Housing

- Drainage in thanks to Donald, who has now finished (took 5 days). About 4 plots have been cleared of stumps; can now do a photo montage of the houses. 3 and 4 bed drawings and photos done; RB to send to architects to photo montage.
- Community Council meeting 11th March, 3pm. RB to present the allocation policy. Agreed that people will be asked to formally register interest. If oversubscribed there will be an allocation process, to be scored by an independent adjudicator.
- Show-round for councillors will probably not happen before next Tuesday.
- Housing site – Donald digger to finish; anticipated this will take 3/ 4 days at £300 per day. RB to arrange.

Treasurer's report

- Auchenlochan – Tilhill speaking to their lawyers.
- HIE has agreed to give us the money we didn't spend on the DO project. 15% on the basis that J C-B is doing some of the past DO's duties. Can claim proportion of salary back.
- Putting £8K from the final LEADER claim into salaries and £6K from HIE final leader claim will be working capital.
- EGGER contract – will give us some security.
- Hydro – DB and WM have been working through; conference call with SIS and Reef – both will fund gaps, don't tend to fund the whole thing. Possibility of joint funding, each fills a gap. Pete Mills, Local Energy Scotland is helping us to populate spreadsheet. WM away for a couple of weeks so need to get this firmed up.
- AG-W informed the board that Lucy Gillie was at a renewables meeting today and came back with some financial modelling ideas. Might be relevant to us. A G-W to follow up.

AOB

- Little over 1 yr until KCFC's name disappears off the rest of the forest; agreed it would be worth pursuing purchase of it. Would mean engaging with the National Forest Land Scheme; application would have to be approved before March 2015, and need LTFP finalised.
- Bram the horse – needs to be more carefully considered. SW still to visit.

- Thanks to Don McInnes for the course on wooden sign making. CB to write a letter of thanks.
- Marketing meeting – to be scheduled.

Date of next meeting - 24th March