

KCFC

Minutes of Meeting 10th April 2014

Present: Jamie Chaplin- Bryce; Rob Borruso, Willie MacAllan, Craig Blair, Steve Williamson, David Blair, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies: Nikki Woolf, Fraser Brown

Minutes of last meeting.

Proposed: Willie

Seconded: Rob

Volunteer Report

- Volunteers have been coming in staggered because of transport problems which has slowed progress. New volunteer about to start. New posters are going up in village to encourage local people to volunteer in their forest. They will also be used at Jobs Fair Craig & Nikki will be attending.
- 1st Aid booked for Tues 22nd April with 10 spaces. 4 volunteers, Craig + Kings Court. Any spare places could be offered to KAG members.
- Manual Handling training was suggested. Craig will investigate, also tele-handler training and ATV.
- Compost – professional gardener who drops off garden waste has offered volunteer hours in lieu of donation.
- Volunteers are vital and as important as employees. Hoping to keep volunteer coordinator role through Archaeological project. Craig will look through the Volunteer action fund application to check that outcomes are on target to be met.

Forest manager's report

- Timber – Jamie has balanced the costs of the remaining timber. 2 wagons of larch chip will leave meaning that our chip will balance with the sawlog. On this basis, we will have some more money coming in from EGGER. Rob and Jamie will try to sort the timber as soon as possible so that worst goes for chip.
- Further felling. Euroforest been approached again. They have visited site but are reluctant to make an informal offer. They did say that their prices don't always match the market's as they look for long term relationships. FCS agree it can be put to tender for the best price, but looking for best value as a whole can sometimes be more important than price. It was agreed to go with Egger as we already have a good relationship, but Jamie will push for better price even though market is falling.

KCFC

Minutes of Meeting 10th April 2014

- The LTFP is on the register and will remain there until 28th April, thereafter any changes will need to be made as highlighted from the register and then it should be passed. Harvesting should be able to begin again in May.
- FSE – We have not been selected for audit this year – we will be audited in 2015, normally around June time. We have no invoice yet for the FSC group-scheme annual membership.
- Windblow – Ross has come back with a price for the windblow, Brian Murdoch who has been working on site would do the work. It is £500/day or £1400 plus VAT for 3 days (anticipated time). It could be argued that we could do the work ourselves, but we do need the correct equipment. Some trees ought to be climbed and therefore would be difficult to risk assess satisfactorily. Jamie recommends getting a professional in. Decision taken to use Colin as he's qualified, to build staff skills & expertise. The money will be spent buying a decent winch. Steve will investigate
- **Rhododendron** – Areas are still not satisfactory. Ross has sprayed some areas in the last week of March, this is yet to take effect. JCB/Colin will walk through week commencing 14th.
- Alstor at £80 is a good deal and useful for building Colin's expertise. Craig will also work alongside Colin and develop skills. It will only be available 3 – 4 days at a time. Windblow has to go first.
- Woodland Trust – meeting on 17th April Jamie looking into how/if the woodland trust can help our forest regenerate with native trees. Trees in the polytunnel will need heeled in as too late to plant now. Suggested putting in allotment area.
- Kilfinan Way - Thanks to Steve for clearing almost to reservoir.
- Ops building – great progress, thanks to Rob. Next meeting should be held in there.
- Jamie requested old chairs outside kitchen in return for a donation – agreed.
- VAT – will be dealt with before Hydro equipment needs bought.
- Sawmill Open Day – Monday 28th April. Demonstration 2 pm. CC and Dev Trust to be invited. – Nikki to email an invite and put posters out. Colin & Jamie will prepare some products to have on show.
- Cord strap has arrived. Jamie has offered waste pile for sale to Chip Shop. offcuts will be bundled and strapped for firewood. - It will be advertised locally – half price split logs if people can process it themselves.

KCFC

Minutes of Meeting 10th April 2014

- Sawmill price list – there is a formula for working out anything not already on the list. A close eye to be kept on costs to produce and money coming in.
- ASHS - £100 membership per year. Advantage is opportunity to tender for supplying. We will revisit idea when hardwood is being milled.
- Sales – firewood business will soon be built back up. Craig will build up some kindling bundles etc. Sawmill doing 60% of what is needed. Thanks to Nikki for inputting the sales into a spreadsheet.
- Compost – most bags now been sold. Three bags missing. Jamie to investigate discretely as someone might have taken intending to pay later. Steve will ask Horticultural Society where they source theirs – perhaps joint bulk purchase would bring price down. Another pallet needs to be bought soon.
- Compost toilet – Colin needs another person for one day to complete. If no one can help, Craig will supply a volunteer.
- Site maintenance – The professional gardener will trim and keep entrance tidy when dropping off cuttings as his volunteering duty in lieu of donation.
- New volunteer – Katrin Korsch from Germany 20 weeks in winter. She is interested in measuring trees and silviculture. Jamie will email and offer her the upper forest to measure or rhoddie survey, clarifying financial situation.
- Chainsaw course – Contour training were pipped to the post of the ABC chainsaw contract, as a result we will not be hosting the numerous courses discussed in earlier months. We will still consider using Contour for some of our own training - Craig is looking into this. Jamie will investigate making direct contact with ABC.
- Insurance – cover for off-site work. NFU £250 per year. 1/6 of profit. It would mean being able to take on the jobs inquired about locally. Staff must be ticketed and experienced for insurance to be valid. Discussion about whether the time is available to take on these jobs at this point. Do we have enough tools and experience? We are already covered for product liability, but not product guarantee. Decision taken to go ahead with Sailing Club job – it has good visibility for PR.
- Health & Safety – planer doesn't meet regulations. It will be removed. Steve/Jamie will get prices for equipment needed. Woodworking tickets are required - will be put on list of pending training. A tool talk is not sufficient.

Treasurer's report

KCFC

Minutes of Meeting 10th April 2014

- Willie suggested spending the £2k saving from NI to be used to buy a log trailer. Jamie will investigate costs to £2k max inc vat
- Border dispute – Michaela has spoken to solicitor. The advice is to agree to rectification request from neighbouring landowner. All agreed, on the understanding that all legal costs are covered by neighbour.
- Archaeology – heritage lottery fund, our contribution is volunteer time. The quote for the survey is £8,600. It was proposed to get them in as soon as possible to check hydro pipe line, but to delay the rest of survey till July/August. Survey cost included training volunteers. West of Scotland Archaeology need to agree that the survey proposals will meet the planning condition. Willie has contacted them, but had no response.

Housing

- Architects promised drawings next Thursday, for master plan. Then master plan documentation will be finished off.
- Digger may be back Friday or Monday. £500 for 7 days + VAT. Alec happy either day. Difficulty will be to fuel it. Diesel tank needed. Site security needs tightened. Problem needs sorted by Monday. It will probably use over 500 litres in a week. 20 gallon barrels could be the solution. Rob will phone Gleaner tomorrow.
- John Moran has asked for assurance that KAG will have the land before they pay for stump clearance. Also asked for a lease to allow them to undertake some long term planning. KAG will investigate a Letter of Understanding. It will be made clear that KCFC aren't in position to pay for any legal costs.
- Rural Housing Scotland Conference. Rob talked at it – plans got lots of interest. HIE contacts were in attendance. Rob highlighted to them the value of any money they give. Indication that they may be able to help with legal costs. Rob will draft a proposal. There may be other one-off start up costs funding available.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 30th, 5 pm.