

Board Meeting Minutes – 19th May

Present – David Blair, Rob Borruso, Steve Williamson, Fraser Brown, Willie McAllan, Craig Blair, Colin Willment, Nikki Woolf

Apologies – Fiona Hamilton, Jamie Chaplin-Brice

Welcome from David

Minutes approved SW, seconded DB

Minutes

Operations Manager report

- KCFC IT – NW and RB to establish what we need and purchase. £150 price limit.
- Timber – Contract signed with EGGER, they will be returning on the last week of May. Euroforest visited on 12th May as arranged, as previously discussed, their prices were comparable to EGGER's but would have put delay to our Schedule. JCB to discuss further at the next board meeting.
- LTFP – Awaiting update from FCS admin.
- Sawmill – agreed that this needs to be more efficient. JCB has ordered the spare clamp and side supports. Some good orders in, will need to allow time for these as they are income generating.
- Windblow – Sufficient windblow was cleared for the Archaeologist to survey the pipeline. Thanks to Kings Court and Craig; visual aspects need to be cleared, there is still plenty to do. JCB has asked Ross to bring the Alstor back to clear some of the cut logs. We will burn up some of the brash.
- Rhodies – Ross has re-covered coupes 1 and 2 of the Rhododendron and so inspection has been arranged on the understanding that he prompted the inspection and failure will result in penalty to him. They have done good work of late; the spraying in March has taken effect. JCB to ask that we walk over coupe 3 to highlight areas where more work is needed. JCB has been overseeing rhodie work of late with CW helping out with the windblow – CW to come on the walk to see what the inspection is looking for to continue Rhododendron management into the future.
- Finest woods awards – JCB and WM walked the site with Keith Logie, a great afternoon explaining the perks of the forest.
- Future plans day – A great success, a good turn out with people attending the mill demo, housing walk and store opening.
- Sales – NW provided an update of April's sales figures. Insurance has been paid to allow in-house build off-site. Agreed that out of forest labour jobs should be evaluated on a case by case basis. Directors have the final say.
- Compost – Agreed that we should refer people to Rudi since demand will now slow down.
- Sawdust – 4 dumpy bags for FB to collect; will do once trailer is fixed.
- Spraying of knotweed – CW has offered to do in return for the training course.
- Health & Safety – JCB to contact FB for a date to do fire plan.

- Maintenance Monday (first Mon of the month) – agreed this is a good idea. Ops team to produce a checklist to go in the office; RB to fix compost bay.
- KAG lease – Suggested that KAG pays for water and KCFC pays for everything else (electricity, road maintenance, etc). NW to look into charges.
- Midge nets – JCB has ordered 6 midge nets for use by those outside in the windblow/swamps etc.
- Forest school site – The maps for the forest school site have been completed and Fiona now has these.
- HIE visit – was a great success, Kirsten thanks everyone for their hard work and all those who visited are very impressed. HIE recognises we have expertise in hydro start-up; would be happy to have an initial discussion with other groups.

Volunteer programme (CB to email over full report)

- Polaris service – SW to have a look prior to training in June.
- Spraying course – can get ILA funding. Agreed we would book on the basis of 6 trainees.
- Below 10 tonne digger training - Agreed that we should approach HIE to see if they would fund a course.
- Rhodies – agreed that if people come up with Rhodies we can offer to burn them (charge the council on tonnage).
- Agreed we need better site signage - NW to get a quote.
- VAF money ends end of June – board to discuss next steps re volunteer coordinator post.

Treasurer Report

- Hydro funding – WM to contact Rob Halliday, SIS; pipe to be ordered once permission has been granted by SEPA. DB to contact Nigel Smith, Sustainable Control Systems (for a proforma invoice for bacs payment).
- Report on the HIE visit – they were very impressed with the housing project, in particular the prospect of apprenticeships. Very keen on training and tackling youth unemployment.

Housing Report

- John Blair – doing local building project, will be parking a few pallets at KCF for a week or so.
- Repairs to digger - £1400; NFU have intimated they will cover the bill. Our insurance premium will go up. RB to charge KAG for damages to digger and work done.
- John King – recently moved to area; interested in crofting. Has multiple tree work tickets; agreed it would be good to get him on board as a volunteer. RB to coordinate.
- Architects are coming back with more drawings. RB has templates for the master plan design. FB questioned whether there would be flexibility on the design of the housing for self-builders – agreed that there wouldn't be on moving structural walls, but yes to minor tweaks e.g. layout. Timeline - June for master plan, to go to committee in July, and apply for planning in Sept.

AOB

- RB attending Marketing group meeting on 20th May; to report back.
- NW to get a quote for KCFC t-shirts.

Date of next meeting – 2nd June