

Minutes for KCFC Board meeting held on 6th August 2014

Present –Rob Borrusso, Willie McAllan, David Blair, Steve Williamson, Andrew Graham-Weall, Nikki Brown, Colin Willment

Apologies – Fiona Hamilton, Fraser Brown, Leigh Rothney

Minutes of previous meeting were proposed by DB and seconded by SW

Hydro Project

Schedule for getting hydro scheme completed in 2014 is looking challenging due to potential workload for Co-Hydro(installers). DB monitoring closely.

SIS have indicated conditional agreement to £90k loan as their share of hydro finance.

REIF still to confirm their share of costs – no further problems anticipated.

SIS/REIF want sight of purchasing contracts for turbine, pipeline etc. AGW to seek legal advice.

CDM(Construction Design and Management) for project requires Health and Safety monitoring – Fraser Brown to be approached due to expertise in this field.

Forest Operations (Colin Willment)

Sawmill income for previous month was £700. A good increase but still short of £1000 target.

Firewood income was £200

New assistant Andy McKenzie is settling in well and doing good work with sawmill and compost.

John King has started processing firewood for forest at £3 per bag.

Sawmill shed flashing and guttering finally finished by Robinsons.

New pricing system has been developed for phone orders.

Still awaiting confirmation from Egger for cut timber removal schedule. RB actively pursuing.

Summer Youth Placement

The project was run with great enthusiasm by Craig Blair and ably assisted by many other KCFC employees and directors, particular thanks to Don McInnes for his valuable input. The youngsters involved experienced many different activities culminating in the archaeology survey of the forest. The end of the project was marked by a barbeque for all parents and helpers and was very well attended.

It has proved a very positive experience for all the teenagers involved and will be repeated next year.

Craig Blair has left the forest to pursue new challenges in warmer climes and his cheerful presence will be missed. We would like to thank him for his contribution to the composting scheme and firewood sales and his successful development of the Volunteer Programme and the completion of the Summer Youth Placement. We wish him every success in his overseas venture.

Deer Management

The current contract expires in October and we expect the renewal to be tendered for by a number of interested parties. NB to follow up.

Housing Project

Application to Scottish Govt for Rural Housing Body status has stalled due to restriction of land sale in original FCS contract. Formal approach to waive this restriction has been made to FCS by MacRoberts solicitors in Glasgow. We are confident of a positive outcome.

Housing masterplan has been submitted A&B Planning (Steven Gove) for his comments and approval ??

Development Manager Update (Nikki Brown)

Admin assistant – Adam will be getting the bus now schools are back. NB has proposed a new work timetable to fit in with bus times. He is progressing well with the bank rec.

Purchase of Upper A – NB expressing interest to Scottish Land Fund, to be guided by HIE (Clare Munro). HIE will potentially fund pre-planning work, NB to progress. UPM Tilhill and EGGER still to come up with proposals. JCB has agreed in principle to do the feasibility in October.

Skills development programme – NB has circulated the plan; to send proposal to Comic Relief. HIE want to see more on how it will secure the forest long term.

Forest sculpture – NB to have a meeting with Guy Elder.

Crowd funding – potential to run a perk-based initiative with social media agency. Proceeds would go towards a particular project; NB to report on progress.

Woodland burials – NB submitting an application to Investing In Ideas for a feasibility study.

Volunteering – no more funding available until April; to explore further options. Suggested we keep volunteer days going. NB drafting a press release on volunteering, archaeology and school placement programme.

A voluminous first report has been compiled by Nikki and is therefore attached in its entirety for the sake of completeness.

Date of next meeting set for Wed 20th August.