

## **Minutes for KCFC Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

**Present** – , Willie McAllan, David Blair, Steve Williamson, Andrew Graham-Weall, Nikki Brown, Colin Willment, Fiona Hamilton

**Apologies** – Rob Borrusso, Fraser Brown

**Minutes of previous meeting** were proposed by AGW and seconded by SW

### **Hydro Project**

WM had conference call with REIF and SIS. Everyone pleased with progress. Supplementary document discussed and is satisfactory subject to a few minor changes. Any new documents going on the summary sheet need to be dated. Nikki will update Health & Safety policy by this weekend and Fraser will check it. Contract still needs to be tied up. DB and WM will finalise. Quotes needed for pipes. Installation needs to be completed in autumn. Nikki will take over from WM for the next month. Kerry McGill and Don McInnes will read over contracts and ensure that the Board is aware of any requirements and obligations. FB has agreed to be Construction Development Management Coordinator. Contract now needed for CoHydro – DB will chase it up.

### **Forest Operations** (Colin Willment)

Forwarder has left.

Timber extraction will start 28<sup>th</sup> August (Egger) 1400 tonnes to go. Expected to be completed by mid September.

Ross Petro has been back on site. Regeneration has been sprayed. CW will ensure all necessary areas will be sprayed. There is a concern about the effectiveness of spraying in rain and wind.. They have been told to stack to leave area open for inspection. 30% of contract cost will be retained until KCFC is satisfied the job has been completed as specified.

Orders slow for sawmill. NB, SW, RB, CW are meeting tomorrow to review sawmill operation. Advert in the paper. Delivery would could make a big difference. Andy would be interested in setting up delivery to Dunoon area. It is important that the sawmill doesn't take up too much staff time for little income. Aim to generate enough income to employ an apprentice.

Andy needs to get his telehandler ticket. NB to ask Kirsten (HIE) if possible to put a bid in for training funding for Andy plus a trainee/apprentice.

Colin requested a set of walkie-talkies. SW offered a set.

Andy is not keen on composting operation. He will be kept on his three day/24 hour contract which he submits invoice for fortnightly.

CW will take on composting in the meantime until someone else can be trained to take it on.

WM will take on the calculation of composting for invoicing A&B Council.

Firewood is being managed by CW and Andy. 3-4 bags per hour. Supplies are now about a quarter of what can be stored. Need another batch of bags with logo on. CW made some local deliveries which is increasing demand. Price £47.50 + £2 deposit on the bag, delivered in 1 mile radius.

Portavadie Marina want a sign similar to KCF interpretation panels. Price £300 for larch or £900 for oak. There is a possible order for a bench. Portavadie had a tour of the forest and opportunities for joint marketing discussed.

Shute needed for bagging the logs - it will be made in house.

Deer Management. A tender needs to be drawn up and whoever wins it needs to be supervised. Alternative is to manage the deer in-house by training staff. In meantime NB will contact local stalkers to assess level of interest in tendering

### **Development Manager Update (Nikki Brown)**

Thanks to Michaela for completing the bank req.

Admin Assistant. Adam Whitton has now left KCFC; recruiting for new administrator. Agreed it is important to get the right person, regardless of whether they qualify for subsidy.

Upper Acharossan. NB in regular contact with Claire Munro, HIE, who wants to visit very soon. She deals with deminimus, which is reviewed on case by case basis. Feasibility study - base on original study. Scottish Land Fund only available up to £750k @95% intervention rate. WM will work with NB on deminimus case once Hydro installed.

Event space – awaiting approval of master plan before we can start planning the event space.

Skills development programme – proposal has been sent to Comic Relief.

Crowd funding campaign – we have been shortlisted along with six others; three projects being chosen.

Woodland burials – application submitted to Investing In Ideas for feasibility study.

Volunteering – Froglife: potential to engage volunteers in build of three ponds over winter. NB has a meeting with them on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept to discuss.

School placement – board to consider possibility of involving students in work placement over half term/ Christmas holidays.

Woodworking event – plan developed; NB to pitch to HIE.

Cara Gellati has approach NB about becoming involved with KCFC.

CWA and Paths for All are useful organisations to send press releases.

CWA event. NB and CW plus available directors to lead walk-around. SW to present overview at Kames Hotel.

NB away on honeymoon 6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September.

SW – difficult finding digger of right size and price relatively local. There is one he is considering for £15k.

FCS have agreed that there will be no restriction on selling building plots. Their lawyers are sorting out amending the original agreement.

### **AOCB**

#### **School**

Forest Shelter – Awards for All money is in school fund. DB will project manage, with October as start date.

Food for Thought Fund –

AGW – site found for Jim Gardner's memorial bench. Site needs prepared and bench finished.

It was suggested that some of the rotting benches around the village are replaced as goodwill gesture. A programmable laser cutter will be investigated to put our logo on produce. SW will investigate.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 5 pm**