

Minutes for KCFC Board meeting held on 3rd September 2014

Present – David Blair, Rob Borruso, Steve Williamson, Nikki Brown, Colin Willment, Fraser Brown, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies – Andrew Graham-Weall, Willie McAllan

Minutes of previous meeting

proposed DB, seconded SW

Development Manager Update (Nikki Brown)

- Richard Ingham has been appointed as admin assistant. Start date 6th October and has offered some volunteer hours in the meantime.
- Purchase of Upper Acharossan. Application has been fast-tracked. HIE supportive of funding from Scottish Land Fund, but advised not to put in for full 95%. Other money could come from whichever forestry operator bids successfully. Egger and TillHill are both in the running – relationships are already established with both. They have both been informed of the fast-track
- NB is working on a proposal for HIE assistance with feasibility study, business plan, community consultation, formal valuation. Seedcorn funding is now no longer dominimus. Animateurs could be used for community consultation fund – DGS school work placement trainees could be asked to take this on. Public meeting for the consultation needs to be undertaken before feasibility study (October). It was suggested that KAG members, Development Trust etc. help with the consultation. NB will put out a proposal on how the consultation will be conducted on return from holiday.
- Wood of our Own event. Thanks to CWA for allowing KCF to host it.
- Hydro. A contract manager is needed. SW has agreed to take this on. KCFC will keep control of contingency fund. If it is not needed it will be used to repay loan. NB to clarify that there will be no penalty for early repayment. Installation now pushed back to October. HSE documents have been received from CoHydro. FB has checked them over. They will be updated as the installation proceeds. Areas will be cordoned off rather than closing the forest to public. F10 notification needs to be paid for. FB will arrange site meetings with contractors before work starts. Power purchase contract. Tradelink Solutions has offered a 3 year contract fixed price. Good Energy has offered lower rate for 1 year. RB will draw up a spreadsheet to compare pros & cons.
- Crowd funding campaign for the tree nursery has been chosen. Hot Tap Media are putting together a strategy for it to happen over autumn/winter
- Volunteering – KCFC has entered the VAF awards.
- Deer Management. Contract to go to selective tender. Cull data is needed from current stalker.
- Sawmill takings £550 in August. £300 firewood.
- Good coverage in Dunoon Observer for PR on volunteering, placements and archaeology.
- Guy Elder has visited to discuss sculpture; he will send some ideas for the work. A plinth will be needed to install it on.
- RB & NB had an interview with Guardian journalist for a Live Better feature. It should be published this week.

- Woodworking event. Plan was sent to HIE who still have some questions. CWA are interested in supporting it.
- CWA conference. SW and RB attended. Other organisations are facing the same challenges as KCFC. SW was congratulated on remaining sober.

Forest Operations (Colin Willment)

- Timber extraction going well. Aim to finish by 15th September. It has been arranged for our own larch to be moved down.
- Rhododendron project still hasn't been done. MGS is going to speak to Ross Petro and take this on. A couple of days more required to finish the job at which point the claim for payment will be put in.
- Forest Store. Needs to be stocked and racks need to be installed. CW has ideas for product development.
- Security was discussed. Sawmill needs gated and anything valuable can be stored in that area.
- Sawmill orders picking up. Some larger orders for planters have come in and log shed. Laser cutter hasn't been able to sourced at affordable price.
- Ground work needs done for shed extension and behind sawmill.
- Saw blades need sharpened. Twenty blades will be sent to Cumbria via Oban Express/AJG.
- Andy has now got a small van and will be able to do some deliveries in Dunoon area. He will put flyers round and also approach garden centres to see if they would sell our produce. Richard will be able to spend some time on marketing.
- Firewood stocks are ok. 30 bags in stock.
- Parts have arrived for the buggy to be repaired. SW and CW will arrange to repair.
- Tool shed needs repaired. Roof is leaking and overhang required.
- Stone (scalpings) is being delivered from the contractors working on the New Road. The first load will go up at the sawmill, then the housing road.
- Ian McGhee has been approached about digger courses. NB will follow up possible funding. The course maximum would be for 4 people. KCFC staff will be priority.

Housing

- RB has meeting with Stephen Gove and Paul Farrell on Monday about the road. Depending on the outcome of that meeting SW will approach the Community Council for letter of support.
- Ordnance Survey maps are now ready. Maps will now be able to be improved on Master Plan.
- Rural Housing legal work progressing. There will be a lawyer's fee to pay

AOCB

- SW has almost agreed purchase of a digger.

DONM

Monday 15th September