

Minutes for KCFC Board meeting held on 24^h November, 2014

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

Apologies – Andrew Graham-Weall,

Minutes of previous meeting

proposed WM , seconded DB

Matters Arising

Operations report (CW)

- Firewood sales have dwindled. There will be a push to advertise. Slab wood on special offer for £15 at Christmas market – pay on the day, collect later or £5 delivery
- Sawmill has another shed order in. People have expressed an interest in buying sections and constructing it themselves. Mill orders for wood have dropped slightly.
- RB has been working on repairing digger. Parts have just arrived. Work will start again on Kilfinan Way.

Development Manager report (NB)

Purchase of Upper Acharossan

- SLF and NFLS forms have been submitted along with supporting docs. NB was congratulated on producing such a strong application.
- Hard copies of the business plan and feasibility are still awaited. (electronic versions with SLF and NFLS).
- Very positive feedback from Big Lottery; they consider it a strong application.
- HIE have advised pursuing a contract with Tilhill to make the application as 'robust' as possible; Tilhill are drafting one based on their existing contract with Mull. A draft will be with us next week. HIE will provide funding towards the cost of a legal person/ 'forest expert' to review.
- NB to clarify with the Big lottery that Tilhill are advancing timber money, not buying part of the land.

Crowd funding project

- £900 raised so far. The £5.5K target won't be reached but the project with Elaine Jamieson advises there would be FCS community funding available to bridge the gap to fund the tree nursery.
- A new social media intern, Lindsay Wrapson, has been appointed. She is handling the social media side of things and is doing a good job.
- It is planned to promote this at the Christmas market, along with a 'dedicate a tree campaign'. A press release is being drafted for this. An example plaque will be ordered. SW will investigate the cost of purchasing an etcher as part of the project.

- WM admitted he had lost the grip of the modern world.

Politicians visit

- Only one councillor confirmed so far – Mike Breslin. Alex MacNaughton is not available but might be coming this Thursday 27th (NB to follow up). Richard to call around the others tomorrow.

Froglife

- Meeting with James Stead, Froglife on 2nd December to discuss siting of ponds. RB, DB and CW to attend.

Archaeology

- Date for public meeting to be arranged – Clare Ellis (Argyll Archaeology) confirming her availability for w/c 12th January.

Marketing/ events

- Table booked at the Kames Christmas market on 6th Dec; we will showcase a few products, and aim to get orders in by showcasing pics/ info on what we have previously produced for customers. CW/ Andy attending to push products. NB/ RI working on 'dedicate a tree' campaign (both of us will be there to promote), and there will be info for sponsor a sapling, wood fuel/ sawmill leaflet, product list, winter deal on baled firewood and winter newsletter.

Income

- Richard is maintaining a spreadsheet detailing all income and expenditure; (present headline figures sheet). WM has suggested a couple of changes. Cashflow will be able to be monitored. Planned expenditure, restricted funding etc. will be shown. RI was thanked for setting it up and will be asked to update weekly.
- It was suggested that the RBS Treasurer's account is changed to a business account to allow internet banking.
- Sawmill takings £1,200 for November.

End of year accounts

- Four copies to be signed and approved at the AGM on Thursday. To then be sent back to the accountant so final copies can be returned to us and we will have to post them to OSCR. Accountant will send to Companies House.

AGM

- Thursday 27th, 7 pm Kames Church Hall. Presentations to be organised. DB to give Trustees report, Treasurer's Report – WM. Housing – RB, Upper Acharossan – NB, Volunteers - WM

AOB

- 5 month DM progress report submitted to the board, and to Kirsten at HIE. NB thanked for all she has achieved that time.

- DM on leave from Weds 10th – Mon 15th Dec.
- John Moran has offered to sell logs from polytunnel on a Saturday.
- Christmas period – the office will be shut Christmas Day & Boxing Day, Hogmanay & New Years Day.
- NB attending Marketing Group meeting tomorrow and getting info about firewood into holiday houses.

Housing (RB)

- Transport dept have responded that all road infrastructure needs to be put in in advance because of amount of development projected in the future. RB has requested a meeting with Steven Gove to discuss the options a) KCFC goes ahead to planning without blessing of Transport b) KCFC scales back plans and restricts future affordable housing from 20 to 5 plots. Neither option is desirable. SW will also attend the meeting. Advice is being taken to ascertain if what the Council is asking for is reasonable.

Treasurer's Update (WM)

- Hydro – discussions have taken place with potential lenders, explaining that our project is not compatible with their due-diligence systems. A conference call is planned for Thursday to finalise decision to proceed or give up.

AOCB

- **AGM** – SW dealing with the constitution changes to go to OSCR. RI will be asked to put posters in village.
- **Christmas party** – numbers finalised at 20.

DONM

Wednesday, 10th December, 5 pm.