

Minutes for KCFC Board meeting held on 8th December, 2014

Present – David Blair, Rob Borruso, Nikki Brown, Willie McAllan, Andy McKenzie, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies – Fraser Brown, Steve Williamson, John King, Andrew Graham-Weall

Minutes of previous meeting

proposed WM , seconded DB

Matters Arising

Development Manager report (NB)

Purchase of Upper Acharossan

- The meeting with NFLS panel member and FCS on 9th Dec 11am – NB, WM, RB and DB will attend.
- Tilhill has sent over a draft contract. Big Lottery needs a firm date this financial year re when the advance will be paid. Gordon Gray Stevens recommended Ian Hepburn as consultant to advise on contract. SW will also ask his legal contact to quote. Clarification needed re FSE accreditation on timber from the new area. NB will speak to Tillhill.

Hydro

- REIF have been in contact with HIE re potential funding for project officer to tie up loose ends; significant project costs quoted by REIF.
- Questions: What is scope of work for proposed consultant? Is there an assurance that it doesn't affect feed-in tariff payments? Is it non-deminimus? What would the person allocated do? Will remaining money from £20k be allocated to KCFC to cover diligence costs already incurred? NB will speak to Kirsty (HIE) to indicate that we are interested in pursuing the funding subject to the answers to the questions.

Crowd funding project

- £1,400 now raised – only one week left. Awaiting confirmation from Elaine Jamieson on FCS Community funding to fund the gap for the nursery.

Visit from MSP and councillors

- Very positive meeting with Mike Russell, Mike Breslin and Bruce Marshall.
- Mike Breslin had requested a response within 10 days from Transport.

Loan

- Loan from community member needs repaid in April.

Froglife

- Meeting with James Stead, Froglife on 2nd Dec went well and siting of new ponds complete. Installation looking to take place early next year.
- RB quoting for dipping platform and we may need to store the liner.

Archaeology

- Clare Ellis (Argyll Archaeology) has confirmed her availability for a public meeting w/c 12th January. Richard to contact archaeology group to get a meeting scheduled.

Marketing/ events

- Christmas market well attended. £100 worth of sales and a few sponsor a sapling forms were taken away.
- Winter newsletter produced and to be sent out to members shortly.

AOB

- RB & NB have a meeting 9th December with the Argyll & Countryside Trust (link forwarded by Cllr Bruce Marshall) who want to work on path-building projects.

Admin

End of year accounts

- 1 x bound signed copy received, sent to Companies House and 1 sent to OSCR.

VAT

- Richard to process the first claim this week.
- Clarification and further advice will be sought on what is liable for VAT.

Housing (RB)

- Meeting with Councillors and MSP went very well. Councillors have requested a meeting with Head of Highways. More news should be available by next Tuesday.
- Last of the drawings were received from the architect last night. Still to be closely reviewed by RB

Staff changes

Colin tendered his resignation shortly after the last Board meeting and has since left KCFC' employment. The Board thanked Colin for his contribution and wished him every success in his future employment. Colin's departure has left an immediate gap in managing and supervising forest operations at a very busy time as we develop with the sawmill business, hydro installation and acquisition of Upper Acharossan. It was proposed that Rob Borusso be offered a 12 week contract to manage forest operations until the outcome of the Upper Acharossan bid is known and KCFC have considered the wider employment issues arising from the acquisition. At the present time Rob has been working more or less full time for KCFC with no pay, which

massively exceeds the arrangement agreed between the Board and Rob around the housing project. The Board unanimously agreed to offer Rob a contract subject to the following conditions:

1. Rob is employed on a contractor basis by KCFC for 2.5 days/week (20 hours);
2. Rob's contract duties exclude time spent on the housing project since this is subject to the earlier arrangements he agreed with the Board;
3. Rob's employment starts on 8th December 2014 and expires on Friday 27 Feb 2015.
4. Rob would formally resign from Board while an employee but still attend Board meetings.

Rob agreed the contract conditions and tendered his resignation from the Board with immediate effect.

Rob joined the Board meeting at this point in his contract capacity of 'Operations Manager'.

Operations (RB)

- Three shed orders are waiting to be completed.
- Firewood processor is operating in the sawmill shed. Marginal logs can now be processed for firewood.
- Firewood sales are picking up.
- Andy has built a woodrack in sawmill – a tarpaulin will be ordered this week.

AOCB

- Forest School building has frame built. Forest Operations will take over the cladding etc.. Aim to complete by end of January.
- Christmas working. Andy will have holidays from 17th Dec – 5th Jan. Gate will be locked from evening of 22nd Dec to 5th January with notice to contact WM or DB if needed. People will be encouraged to collect firewood beforehand.

DONM

Wednesday, 7th January, 5 pm.