

Minutes for KCFC Board meeting held on 26th February, 2015

Present – David Blair, Rob Borruso, Nikki Brown, John King, Di Wilson, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies – Willie McAllan, Steve Williamson, Fraser Brown,

Welcome – Di Wilson was welcomed to the Board

Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed: JK

Seconded: DB

Development Manager report (NB)

New board member

- Welcome to Di Wilson, who has joined the board. Di will be helping develop the recreational side of things (archaeology, wildlife, event space, young people, etc), and using her local knowledge to develop connections in the wider community.

Staff

- Proposed that RB's contract will be extended until May (on receipt of advance a more permanent arrangement will be considered), with his hours increased to 32hrs p/w to manage operations workload. WM and SW (in absence of board meeting) in support of this. Approved by remaining directors.
- RI has asked to cut his hours down to two mornings per week (from 21 to 8hrs pw). He will predominantly focus on money and general admin. To plug the gap there is be scope to appoint a marketing consultant to assist with Marketing (newsletters, press releases, website etc) on a freelance basis. NB to investigate
- NB has approached other community groups (via CWA), HIE, FCS and CWA re shared forester resource concept; a meeting is taking place with all interested parties on 2nd April in order that a strategy can be worked out.
- Entry level trainee is to be appointed to assist with operations (sawmill/ wood fuel); NB/RB to put together job description (NB considering funding options).

Projects

Purchase of Upper Acharossan

- Completion date has been pushed back to May; Tilhill advance/ SLF grant to be paid then.
- Lawyer instructed to confirm cost for conveyancing work.
- Letter of intent with Tilhill has been signed by KCFC and sent to Tilhill for signature and forwarding to the Land Fund as condition of grant.
- Tilhill has provisionally agreed to increasing the advance as requested but have asked for a more comprehensive business case; NB putting this together.

- There has been good coverage from press release distributed: Dunoon Observer, Oban Times, For Argyll, Herald Scotland, and Press and Journal.
- FCS has confirmed that felling take place by amending existing FDP. This should take a month to process.

Hydro

- All is progressing to plan; Project Manager's (Susan) current tasks include: quotes from electrical suppliers for power purchase agreements; financial model; maintenance; Co-hydro contract.
- Loan agreement docs are expected imminently. There is still a question over the legal review – funders are happy with local ex judge but he might be on holiday when documents need reviewing. SW and JK will ask their contacts. NB will approach HIE for help with legal advice.
- A bill from Susan is expected soon for the first month's work; financial close at 8 weeks. Is still anticipated.

Event space

- Focus meeting took place a few weeks ago; NB working on a plan for 'Destination Kilfinan', which will serve to consolidate our vision and approach potential funders.

Woodland burials

- Brief has gone out to consultants and two proposals received so far. Deadline extended slightly to accommodate other interested consultants. Anticipated this work will take place in March/ April. NB and RB to review proposals and inform the board of preference.

National tree seed collection project

- In association with Kew Gardens, takes place over 3 years (1 week per year). Board has confirmed approval.

Froglife

- RB confirming April dates for installation.

Archaeology

- A second group meeting taking place on 5th March, 5pm at KCFC. Volunteer days to be arranged.

Kilfinan area path network

- A&B Council's access team have provided maps; NB/ RB to complete initial path survey report.

Tree nursery

- NB has submitted a bid for £1500 to the Postcode Community Trust to match fund the tree nursery (crowd funding raised £1500). Should know outcome within 8 weeks.

Project planning

- NB working on plans for: the event space, training centre, young people's project and woodworking workshop.

Income

- Feb sawmill - £437 (owed £1600); firewood (£991)

Events

SRDP seminars

- Woodland creation (12th March) and Woodland management (27th April) RB & SW will attend one event each.

Forest celebration event

- Taking place on 6th June (1pm-5pm); Junkmans Choir confirmed to play, along with a performance from the Walking Theatre Company.

Marketing

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2015

- We are allowed to re-enter; NB to draft entry into the other community woodlands category.

FOREST OPERATIONS REPORT (RB)

- 61 bags of firewood in stock, needs to dry.
- Sawmill orders still coming in. Yard still be concreted once weather permits
- Maintenance work has been carried out on road
- Zac Coley has been assisting with firewood and site clearing
- RB and JK to work on a training programme for staff, volunteers and young people's project in advance NB seeking funding from HIE
- Deer management – Lease needs to be renewed. Tenders to be invited. RB & NB to send out to local stalkers

HOUSING

- Planning applications have been submitted. Amendments to map required. **RB MADE A MISTAKE.** RB humbled and contrite. Compensatory drinks on him. Effluent extraction problems solved. Amended map has been submitted.

CROFTING (JK)

- Plan has been made to progress development of crofts.

AOB

- British Science Week Compost event 16th March – timetable discussed. FH to forward information to NB to share on website and FB page. FH to invite Colglen Growers
- DB has oyster and shitake mushroom inoculation kit and offered to demonstrate using fresh, young birch, oak, beech. Demonstration will be planned once suitable wood sourced.

DONM

Thursday, 19th March, 5 pm