

## **KCFC Board Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

**Present:** David Blair, John King, Rob Borruso, Steve Williamson, Di Wilson, Fraser Brown, Nikki Brown, Fiona Hamilton

**Apologies:** Willie McAllan

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Proposed: JK

Seconded: FB

### **Development Manager's Report** (NB)

#### **HIE filming**

- Filming has been completed and the video will be used as HIE case studies. KCFC will be able to use for Marketing purposes.

#### **Upper Acharossan**

- The settlement date is end of May. NB has discussed money transfer process with different parties.
- Tilhill is due to undertake surveying work in next few weeks, following which there will be a meeting to formalise the contract and agree harvesting plan/ road network. Amendment to existing FDP should cover phase 1 felling; new FDP to be written for phase 2. NB to check deadline for applying for SDRP funding to support costs of new forest road infrastructure.

#### **Woodland burials feasibility study**

- Nigel Lowthrop conducted his first visit at the beginning of April (introductory site visit) and is due back 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April. Various meetings are scheduled, with minister, SEPA, and council planning dept; surveying will take place on Sunday. He will present his findings to the Board on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **Community Engagement Officer**

- Robertson Trust has come back with various questions and a decision is expected soon. There has been no feedback as yet from Awards For All.

#### **Youth Skills Development project**

- 9 young people have registered their interest. They will be required to submit a written statement outlining how they will expect to benefit from the project.
- Dates set – 4 weeks from 13<sup>th</sup> July.
- NB is in talks with Paths For All to arrange a two day training course with young people and c. 10 local volunteers; day 1 – path planning, day 2 – path maintenance. There would be no cost to KCFC for this training.
- NB is drafting a work plan, to be discussed at meeting with Investors In Young People on Tuesday, and then presented to the Board.
- It was agreed to go ahead with the project even if CEO position can't be funded. The aim is to accept all interested young people. Last year's volunteers could be asked to be team leaders. Three outcomes have been identified – path building, geo-caching, forest shelter.

#### **Woodworking workshop**

- The proposed date is 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August. There has been no funding decision as yet from FCS Community Fund. There are various options for covering costs that will be decided once funding is known.

### **Shared forester resource**

- A meeting took place last week with FCS, CWA, HIE and other community groups. CWA will lead on this and put together a proposal for an Argyll pilot project; HIE might put some funding towards this. Community groups are sending Di Oliver briefs with individual requirements for this post/ timescales, etc..

### **Event space**

- Vision document for 'destination Kilfinan' progressing well. This has been delayed due to hydro issues and will be presented to the board shortly.
- Findlay Barge, is a local, recently qualified landscape architect who could be approached to develop a visual plan for event space. FH/RB will contact him.

### **National tree seed collection project**

- This project will go ahead, although it would have been preferred if we could have collected from higher elevations (above 300m).

### **Heritage walk**

- There was a meeting with the archaeology group a few Saturdays ago and they are keen to progress 'phase 2'. Idea to create a waymarked/ signposted 'Heritage' walk (archaeology and nature), leading to various archaeological features and forest wildlife sculptures. To potentially include multi-sensory interpretation (meeting with Ros McKenna on this). Maps would be produced for visitors and this would form a key part of the event space plan.
- NB putting a plan together and potential funding bids to Heritage Lottery and Creative Scotland.

### **Housing project**

- Agreement with RB needs to be formalised.

### **Marketing/ events**

- Eve McFarlane has been appointed to do Marketing consultancy; monthly e-newsletters, quarterly newsletter and ongoing website refresh.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> June event (1pm-5pm) has various activities planned – NB to send plan to the board.

### **Finances**

- Sawmill continues to do well; over £3000 in both March and April thanks to a couple of big orders. Well done team!
- Current bank balance almost in the red, but £35K advance due in May. This will enable reserves of around 8 months to be built until hydro is generating income.
- Richard is organising 2014-15 end of year accounts with accountant.

### **AOB**

- Loan has now paid to local lender.
- Development plan updated and sent to board.

## **Forest Operations (RB)**

- Forest School shelter is nearing completion. The school viewed progress today and all were delighted.
- Froglife – the three ponds are now almost completely dug out. RB beyond excited.
- Over £1k sawmill orders are in the pipeline
- The yard has been concreted and gateposts are in place.
- Kilfinan Way is now being worked on.

## **Housing (RB)**

- Housing – Council still aren't happy with map. There seems to be confusion between blue of boundary line and stream. Clarifications have been sent back.
- Rural Housing Status. FCS lawyers still to respond to the latest communication before RHS can be granted.

## **Hydro**

- A meeting with funders was held in Glasgow last week. RB wore a shirt. Many terms and conditions have been changed, including the necessity for a lawyer. A revised offer is due tomorrow that should restore KCFC income to approaching the original £2k per month.
- RB's contract/job description needs to be reviewed.

## **Crofting**

- The issue of serviced plots was discussed. £20k buy-in + £1k pa rent is more expensive than buying a woodland. Concern was expressed that costs could price many people out of the market. Mull project is not comparable. It was agreed that there would be flexibility in how the crofts are offered. In-go Fee will not include charges for services. Annual rent suggested £60 per ha. Communication with the Crofting Commission will be continued to ensure conformity with legislation.
- JK will draft advert for getting interest and KCFC will advertise on website and suitable publications.

## **Treasurer**

The board expressed regret at Willie McAllan's resignation as Treasurer and hope that he will remain on the board as a highly valued member. All were tasked to think of other people who would be interested in coming on the board, particularly as Treasurer. A vote of thanks was raised to Willie for being a fantastic treasurer and steering KCFC through many 'exciting' projects.

## **AOCB**

None

**DONM:** Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 5 pm