

KCFC Board Meeting – 13th May, 2015

Present: David Blair, Rob Borruso, Steve Williamson, Di Wilson, Fraser Brown, Nikki Brown, Mark Bamford, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies: Willie McAllan, John King

Welcome: DB welcomed Mark Bamford to the meeting, who might be interested in joining the board.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed: DB

Seconded: SW

Development Manager's Report (NB)

Upper Acharossan

- Settlement date 28th May; money transfer in progress. The acquisition should be promoted at Open Day
- Tilhill is in the process of mensuration. A follow up meeting will be arranged once complete with Tilhill, Roads and KCFC
- **NB to draft press release.**

Hydro

- Press release has been drafted for board approval; to be sent to REIF/ SIS for quotes.
- Local employment opportunity advertised.
- **After due consideration of all the circumstances and on being satisfied that it is for the benefit of, and in the interests of the Company for the purpose of carrying on its business to enter into the Loan Agreement in the form now produced and grant the Security Documents in the form now produced to secure all liabilities to the Lender**
- Local employment opportunity – casual labouring – has been advertised. RI will put posters round the community tomorrow.

Housing

- Legal agreement with Rob to be drawn up once FCS clawback restriction resolved.
- Operations Manager job will be advertised once construction phase starts.
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Woodland burials feasibility study

- Nigel Lowthrop due here but absent due to sickness; will present findings to the board in due course. Woodlands Burial, presentation has been postponed due to illness of Nigel Lowthrop. He will present his findings in due course. Feedback received so far indicates there is potential. A possible site has been identified.

Community Engagement Officer

- The funding outcome will be known following trustees meeting on 26th May.

Youth Skills Development project

- Written applications are awaited (three received so far).
- NB misread criteria for a funding application and was roundly chastised and mocked. Humbled.....

Woodworking workshop

- FCS community fund funding has been confirmed; date set for 1st & 2nd August. It was agreed that participants should pay a £5 deposit to secure their place (max 40 places).
- There will be a demonstration at 6th June event to encourage people to sign up. **NB and MB will meet to plan**

Heritage walk

- NB has submitted a funding enquiry to Heritage Lottery for creation of the heritage walk, reinstatement of the curling pond, and construction of a heritage pavilion. Awaiting feedback.
- Date in June with A&B council access team, young people, and local volunteers to be scheduled to survey the route.
- NB applying for £1.5K Paths For All grant and two day training session.

Forest visits

- Scottish Finest Woods Award judges visit tomorrow - 14th May, 9.30am. Children from school will be planting the last of the saplings.
- Sarah Davidson, Director General for Communities in the Scottish Government, and Rachael McCormack, Director of Strengthening Communities (HIE) – 17th June, 3pm.

Summer open day

- 6th June, 1pm-5pm.
- In process of organising promotional materials for the following activities: live music, storytelling (Walking Theatre Company), Scouts baking stall & face painting, milling & woodcraft, barbecue, nature walk.

Marketing

- Eve distributed May e-newsletter and new blog; she is currently working on forest products section of the website.
- Event space – applications for under £100k heritage lottery fund will be made in phases. SNH or Creative Scotland could also be approached.
- A&B access team will help with establishing route. £1.5k Paths for All funding available.

Forest Operations (RB)

- Main site will be tidied up when Andy returns from holiday.
- Firewood store half full for next season
- Michaela suggests that off-cuts are donated to community members in fuel poverty. Community Council and Minister would be involved in identifying need. Volunteers would cut and deliver. This was agreed.
- Nursery is planted up.
- Frog Life – ponds need to be bunded. Other draining issues need fixed.

Housing (RB)

- Housing – validation for planning has gone through and notification of planning submission has been published. Expected timescale is 8 weeks until notification of decision. Master Plan should be approved at the same time. Any further developments will then have a 'presumption in favour'.

Hydro

- Funding has been secured, but money may not be in place to pay for the pipe next Tuesday. **RB will negotiate with pipe suppliers for some lee-way for payment.**
- Work should start on Monday – a momentous occasion after 15 months of negotiations!
- Access for building the weir is almost complete.
- RB has stinking man-cold.

RB congratulated for his perseverance on both housing and hydro products.

AOCB

Mark Bamford was co-opted onto the Board. **NB to sort out email address.**

Treasurer. **NB to check if treasurer is required to be a board member.**

The list of advance dates for meetings sent by Nikki was approved.

DONM: Wednesday, 27th May, 5 pm