

Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, 27th May 2015

Present: David Blair, Mark Bamford, Rob Borruso, John King, Steve Williamson, Willie McAllan, Nikki Brown, Fiona Hamilton

Nigel Lowthrop via skype

Apologies: Fraser Brown, Di Wilson

Woodland Burial (NL)

Nigel talked through the presentation he had sent in advance.

- Natural burial and ashes burial sites identified on maps
- SEPA in Lochgilphead had not given very useful guidance - not specific to the site.
- More details and figures will be in the report to be sent on later, to include an indication of employment possibilities
- It was agreed that there is a lot of potential for the project

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Proposed: SW

Seconded: DB

Development Officer's Report (NB)

Community engagement officer

- Funding has been secured from Robertson's Trust for 50% of one year post and £1k towards volunteer expenses. Other funding options needed to make up shortfall in grant. The application to the Tudor Trust was declined. NB & Richard will work on a financial forecast for the next 8 months, with recommendations for funding the gap.
- JK declared a potential conflict of interest and will express no opinion in future discussion. Job description is written. NB will circulate to board with a recruitment plan.

Upper Acharossan.

- Final settlement will take place next week because of delays with title deeds. Solicitor has the money to be paid to FCS once all the legals are confirmed.
- NB to create 10 year plan.

Training Centre

- NB has submitted an application to RBS's Skills and Opportunities Fund.

Youth Skills Development Project

- Seven written applications have been received. NB to inform candidates of success.

Woodworking workshop

- This has now been advertised. A planning meeting will take place asap.

Heritage Walk

- The initial survey with Argyll & Bute's access officer took place last week. The route is being mapped with recommendations of where volunteers can make improvements.
- There will be a volunteer day on 30th June to formalise route with local volunteers/young people.
- NB is apply for a Paths for All grant, to include two day training.

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Forest visits

- Judging took place on 14th May; no news yet.
- HIE will be visiting on 4th June – 9 am, Kirsten, 11.30 am pre-meeting with Rachel Cormack (HIE)
- There will be a meeting on 17th June at 3 pm with Sarah Davidson, Scottish Government, Director General for Communities. NB, WM, DB, SW, RB will attend.

Summer open day

- Board/staff duties have been allocated. 6th June 1 pm – 5 pm
- Promotional materials will be distributed around the village. It will be advertised on social media and website; invitations will be sent to members.

Roads

- SW, DB will attend meeting with Tilhill to discuss plans for road access.

Forest Operations (RB)

- Hydro installation preceding on budget and was ahead of time until the rain came on today. All materials are on site. Expected completion date 3rd July. A 'switch on' event is planned. Thanks to WM, DB and RB for getting the project to this stage. NB has distributed a press release.
- Housing – Steven Gove and another council representative have visited without speaking to Rob. SG has emailed RB with some suggestions for modifications to the buildings and requests for more information on certain aspects. RB has replied addressing the issues and will be meeting with SG tomorrow. If all can be agreed planning will be discussed at the June committee.
- Forestry operations. Graeme has been working with Andy to clean up the site and general duties. JK offered work on clearing the wind-blow next week with help from both. All woodchip will be put on the paths and not into compost. A few sawmill orders remain. Diesel tank has been installed in yard. Fraser was thanked for use of his diesel tank. Mini digger still ill.

Tree survey

JK has conducted a tree survey, for seed collection project. It highlighted that there are many species missing or scarce. Diversity needs built up.

AOCB

Treasurer – still outstanding.

DONM Wednesday 10th June, 5 pm.