

Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Board Meeting – 24th June

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

Apologies: Fraser Brown, Willie McAllan

Declarations of Interest: None declared

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Proposed; DW, Seconded: DB

Housing (RB)

The planning meeting was today in Lochgilphead. Plans were received very positively by most. Master Plan has been passed. Affordable housing; one councillor questioned the need for affordable housing, and how people could make a profit. No one agreed with this point of view.

Quote of the day; “It’s nice to see someone pushing back against the standardised approach. It has really made my day passing this application.”

Treasurer (RB)

Jo Coley may be interested in taking on the role, and may be prepared to also come on the board.

Hydro (RB)

Continues to be on budget and on time. Pipe should be installed next week. Commissioning may be delayed by a few days.

Development Manager’s Report (NB)

NB baby news

- NB will be going on maternity leave beginning of December with the intention of being away for six months at which point her contract ends. The Board will need to re-evaluate their requirements for a DM. NB is happy to help KCFC source a suitable replacement for maternity period, perhaps to deliver a specific project, e.g. woodland burials. NB and FB were congratulated on their news.
- Priorities for next six months have to be agreed; A 10 year plan is needed (HIE have offered assistance with this). Further aims: 1) complete event space plan and devise funding strategy; 2) develop concise plan for the training centre, and secure funding (HIE might match fund, but would like to see it incorporated into pavilion, i.e. no need to two separate buildings). The board rejected this idea. It was agreed to accept HIE’s offer of two days to produce 10 year plan – even better would be to condense it into one day.

Kilfinan Community Forest Company

Forest Access Coordinator

- Sara Maclean has been offered the job; awaiting confirmation of acceptance/ start date, etc. Five people applied, three were invited for interview and two people were interviewed.
- Robertson's Trust money can be drawn down within two weeks of appointing our FAC.
- Initial priorities: start drafting local engagement plan and devise strategy for youth skills development project. Training day for tree seed collection project on 9th July in Inverness.

Upper Acharossan

- RB, SW and KCFC lawyer had a meeting on Thursday 18th June – FCS lawyers to respond to comments in draft agreement docs.
- A meeting with Tilhill took place last week; tonnage is 7000 less than originally estimated. Since timber market is down, they have advised we don't rush to bring timber to market. Intend to go ahead with clearing windblow from roadside; NB looking into FDP amendment (to also look into SRDP for new FDP). Tilhill have been asked to provide a map.
- Deer management needs tightened up.
- Road infrastructure discussed; potential to create timber route through to Powderdams, linking onto Kilfinan Way.
- By next meeting: roadline to be agreed, plan for windblow/ management felling, and contract schedule to be refined. Legal review still to be done.
- It was agreed that KCFC and Tilhill will have quarterly meetings to discuss progress.
- NB to draft 'KCFC has the keys' press release to mark acquisition.

Big visit

- Thanks to those who attended meeting with HIE and Sarah Davidson, Director of Communities for the Scottish Government. Positive meeting and various key issues discussed. HIE are now looking to set up a fund that third sector organisations can access in future for projects such as the Hydro. HIE interested in funding the drawing up of a case study on KCFC's Hydro experience. It was agreed to find out what their offer would be. NB will speak to Kirsten.

Event space

- Drawings have been received from architects; NB is making some suggestions as to how these can be brought back in line with our vision (in line with draft plan). On receipt of new drawings NB to circulate draft plan to the board.

Woodworking workshop

- 19 people signed up already. The aim is to get at least 30 (max 40). A few people have expressed an interest but have not signed up yet.

Kilfinan Community Forest Company

Crofts

- NB & JK to work together produce time line of the process involved before expressions of interest are invited. NB will undertake some research into the process. An update will be given at the next board meeting.

FSC progress report

- Complete and submitted.

Open day

- Rescheduled for 8th Aug; NB to start re-promoting.

Social Enterprise Awards

- One of the criteria is of 50% of our income having to be trading income. NB checking with accountant for last year.

Woodland burials

- Still waiting on final feasibility report to decide on next steps.

Heritage Walk

- NB has submitted an application to Paths For All for £1.5K towards type 1 (1.3km of the Kilfinan Way).
- There will be a meeting on 30th June with volunteers and A&B access team to survey the route. NB to invite new FAC along (if she hasn't already started appointment).

AOB

- Trustees report – NB to progress first draft.
- It was agreed to reduce meetings to every three weeks. NB to circulate proposed dates.
- It was highlighted that great progress has been made with the three main strands KCFC were working on at the beginning of 2015 – hydro, housing, forestry acquisition.
- CWA conference 21st/22nd August. KCFC have two places. RB, MB will take the places. DB, Michaela Blair and NB are all interested in attending for the day. NB is designated driver.
- The school wishes to thank KCFC for their very generous donation of 'chaise longue' bench for the silent auction. It raised £300!

DONM

Wednesday, 8th July (and thereafter three-weekly!) NB to invite Jo Coley.