

Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 5th November 2015

Present: David Blair, Nikki Brown, Sara McLean, Steve Williamson, Jo Coley, Di Wilson, Rob Borruso, Willie McAllan, Fiona Hamilton. Kirsten from HIE was welcomed to the meeting

Apologies: Mark Bamford, Ali Porter, Fraser Brown,

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed: DW

Seconded: DB

Matters Arising:

Declarations of Interest: none

Conclusion of Event Space meeting; Business plan NB's priority for glamping, camping, bunkhouse and toilet facilities. RB will investigate possibilities for sewerage. RB will look at curling pond reclamation, funding will be looked at from Sport Scotland.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Financial Report

- Financial projections sheet presented.
- Cash flow very tight at the moment. 85k real income is now being projected for the next 6 months. Timber income will be vital to the cash flow.

Upper Acharossan

- RB and NB had a meeting with Ross Buchanan (Tilhill) – should be OK to agree a letter of intent to ensure windblow can come out in Jan/ Feb. NB to draft.
- NB to speak to Catherine Kennedy (FCS) re new FDP requirement in order to progress SRDP application. KCFC land is now registered with Rural Payments.

Auchenlochan access road

- Potential negotiations discussed with the board; servitude sum has been agreed, with proposal that the road gets built by 2017. This will be a legal agreement with Tilhill's client paying our legal costs. NB/ RB to feed back to Tilhill.
- RB will accurately map the road route to ensure it meets KCFC's needs.

Woodland burials

- Scotedge feedback forwarded to board.
- The Brief has been accepted by HIE's management team; Kirsten is putting forward a full appraisal. SIS has given us until mid Nov to make a decision on whether we want to go with SIS community capital fund.
- Questions from HIE regarding the market and suggestion that Glasgow area funeral directors be targeted, as well as Cowal. Board will need to consider which project is best for HIE funding for phase one as it will probably be either burials or camping amenity, not both. Kirsten will email NB the questions from the management team for answering. NB will update the Development Plan and send to Kirsten.

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Crofts

- Jamie McIntyre has forwarded the opportunity to his contacts. This has resulted in a few more enquiries. Three croft plans have now been received. NB to put together draft scoring criteria (Jamie has sent over guidance) and schedule in Jamie for two days' consultancy in Dec to review plans, work out land split and progress CC applications. Criteria to include social benefits. Sub group will lead on this (NB, RB, DB, MB)

Heritage educational packs.

- NB has produced a first draft and now making suggested amendments from FH, SM and WM.

Housing

- Rural housing status. Michael Russell is still negotiating with rural housing minister to shorten timescale.
- James Ogilvie, FCS, suggested there might be some funding for a prototype building – a meeting with Andy Leitch, FCS, has been arranged for Monday 9th November.

Social Enterprise Awards

- SW and WM attended with Andy. KCFC were unsuccessful but all projects were very good, mostly city-based. KCFC was delighted to be among the six shortlisted projects.
- WM is seeking treatment for his square lip. SW is so over it already.

Christmas night out

Rearranged for Thursday 10th. SW's house – 7 pm

Photoshoot

50th Anniversary of HIE was Sunday 1st November. All 38 school and nursery children took part in photoshoot.

AGM -

All arranged for Thursday 19th. NB will give presentation on forest futures. RB will update on housing. WM will give treasurer's report and DB the chair's.

Forest Access Coordinator's Report

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

October volunteer days

- Woodworking weekend a great success with around 23 people attending. Feedback has been very positive, and it is clear there is an appetite for activities involving 'woodworking'. Shelter almost complete. Needs 'guyed down' as soon as possible. RB will take mitigating action.

November volunteer / activity days

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- A green woodworking club taster session to be scheduled. Chainsaw days – Mon 9th (SW) and Wed 11th (John King etc) to close the paths and clear windblow / tidy up a bit and maybe start on the bush craft area
- Wed 25th at 2pm – **Come and Try Walking for Health** with ColGlen Walkie Talkies – followed by tea and cake!
- Nordic Walking taster session TBA with FH
- Paths for All project- paths work TBA with RB

Branching Out

2 volunteers from KCFC (MB and John King) have attended 3 days Branching Out Leader training at Blarbuie Woodlands. Branching Out is a project partnership between FCS, ACT and CWA which has put in place funding to embark on a series of 12-week programmes across Argyll that gets people referred from the Area Mental Health teams out into woodland once a week to take part in outdoor activities (like Forest School for adults). It is anticipated the first programme will run in the Spring at Blarbuie, after which the other Argyll areas – e.g. Cowal - will follow suit. KCFC will be well placed to get involved with this programme next year.

Youth Skills Development

Youth Club

- After meeting with John K, we agreed to set up the framework that will allow him to lead a weekly forest youth club – which would probably take place on Friday evenings after school. Activities will include bushcraft, torch walks, star gazing, geodome building etc.
- An application has been made to become a member of Youth Scotland. This will act as a mentor organisation and also KCFC will join the PVG scheme under their umbrella. NFU has been contacted regarding any insurance implications – still waiting to hear back. Once all protocols are in place the Youth Club will start – probably in the New Year.
- The Youth Club will be a good introduction for the YSD programme to Dunoon Grammar school pupils, and inspire the next generation of YSD candidates.
- Contact has been made with the science dept at the Grammar and a visit for S4 to our Hydro scheme is being organised along with a science and technology project (perhaps to build an LCD display of power generated) which will be done in conjunction with, and obtain funds from British Science Week – deadline for applications 23rd Nov.

Nature Group

Meetings were held with DW and Eve McFarlane to plan and promote nature activities.

- A nature blog will feature on the website – a page has been set up for this – it will cover things like tree seed collection, wildlife tracking, foraging and the froglife project.
- Christmas holly hunt to be organised for the seed collection in December.
- Wildlife tracking days in Nov / Dec, and also hopefully in the snow in Jan or Feb

Tree Seed Project.

- Kew have been informed that we did not manage to collect any birch before seed and leaf drop. This is not a problem as the project is over two years. The annual report is to be submitted in Feb. The budget may need adjustment across the financial years at that stage.
- One to one contact will be made with people to ask for their expertise in locating trees and collecting seed for the Christmas holly hunt. School activities in the new term.

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Heritage and Paths

- Chainsaw days are being scheduled for next week (Mon and Wed) to clear the windblow from the lower paths and also possibly take down the conifers along the hydro pipe route, which have had root disturbance and might blow over winter. Weather permitting.
- The Paths for All funding requires a little more work to complete the project – some volunteer days – some type 1, and SM will draft a map of paths for potential walks leaflet.
- A recce of the Kilfinan Way took place with Leaders from the Nordic Walkers and ColGlen's Walkie-Talkie group to plan / risk assess for groups of differing abilities to make regular use of paths. The Nordic Walkers are happy to use the path straight away so have been invited to come up. The Walking for Health group really need solid flat surfaces, and will bring a more-able group on Wed 25th. There are some local walkers who meet on a Tuesday afternoon – no formal groups exist in Tighnabruaich –and they will be invited to come up for a walk as well in the hope that we can set something up.
- There is a need for more local Walking for Health Leaders, and for existing Leaders to have refresher training (at least 15 people apparently) Paths for All have been contacted about running a training course here to increase local capacity for health walks. SM could attend the Walk Leaders Get Together Day next Tuesday in Arrochar.
- NB and SM will try to define a project and potential funding before NB goes on leave for the Kilfinan Way re Stanza Stones / poetry project.
 - DB to send SM map showing directions from village to forest

Winter Solstice Event

An event will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 22nd December

HIE's 50th birthday shoot

Took place. Photo on our FB page – HIE will publicise.

Art in the Forest

- Robbie Baird – sculpture walk. KCFC provide venue & wooden plinths along Kilfinan Way. Robbie will organise artists, to be launched April 16.

Forest Operations Manager report

Hydro

- Ofgem needs to issue certificate
- Hydro working well
- Door on turbine shed, some tidying up needed

Froglife

- Dipping platform is now finished
- Training day to be held in spring.

Toilet refurbishment

- Timber needs to be dried. Drying shed will be built next. The aim is to have toilet building completed by spring.

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Housing

- Building warrant applications went in before regulations were upgraded. RB had discussion with Billy Dixon, building control. Some more detail is required.
- RB had more practice writing apologetic emails. Building warrants are expected to be issued beginning of December.

Woodchip Shop have offered to collaborate, use of drying shed etc.

Composting

- RB blushed. Increase in limit *will* be sought from A&B council.
- No further word has been heard about glass re-cycling.
- It was suggested going through the social enterprise department of council as means of improving communication with council.

AOCB

HIE

Rachel McCormack leaving HIE and a replacement will be appointed. A few changes have been made in HIE about project handling. A letter of engagement will be coming to KCFC. There is a new product - Board Health Check and Skills Audit – delivered by HIESEN. Might be appropriate to use after AGM with new Board. There are up to twelve modules of training which can be offered to plug any skills gaps. RB will be Kirsteen's main contact with director support from SW & WM.

DONM

Thursday 19th November 7 pm AGM.
Thursday 26th November 5 pm