

Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Minutes of Board Meeting
Thursday, 18th February, 2016

Present: Steve Williamson, Ali Porter, David Hunter, Jo Coley, Di Wilson, Mark Bamford, Rob Borruso, Willie MacAllan, Sara Maclean, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies:

Cake: DW was congratulated on the lightness & deliciousness of her baking. Meeting delayed for munching. This is to become a standing item.

Declarations of Interest: No one was interested. Someone will try to be interesting during next meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Proposed: WM

Seconded: DH

Matters Arising

All items on agenda

Forest Access Coordinator report

- Blarbuie Woodland have leaflet with map. Paths for All funding is coming on maps and path publicity. It was agreed that SM pursue funding and graphic designer to produce.
- Youth Scotland – policies have been produced to make KCFC compliant. Signed and dated by SW.
- Third Sector Fund application for workshops will be sought
- Branching Out. Sessions will hopefully be set up here after Easter.
- Climate Challenge Fund deadline tomorrow. £58k application has been produced for training centre build. Job descriptions are needed. RB will supply these.
- FCS community fund will be looked at for potential Aspen project.
- Finance. Potential application to Robertson Trust for funding FAC post for next two years.
- Den building day will be postponed because of the weather forecast.
- OWLS event. KCFC will do the marketing and receive the funding allocated for that.
- Cowal Fest. A Kilfinan hydro/heritage themed walk will be included in October 2016.

Actions: SM, RB

Forest Operations Manager's report

Housing.

- Still awaiting engineer's drawings. Building control officer will visit when they are ready.
- An email has been received by a Millhouse resident. All directors agreed with the drafted response. RB will email the response.

Crofting.

- David Blair, MB & RB have looked at croft applications. Three have been invited to visit and walk the sites. Jamie McIntyre will then meet with them.

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- Potential crofters will be expected to drive the paperwork forward.
- In-go fee of £10k was agreed with option of ability to defer and spread over time. Rent will be in two parts. Land fee and service charge. RB & MB will plan the finances.

General Operations.

- Kilfinan Way boggy area has been upgraded to sponge.
- Deer fence has started at tree nursery. Should be under budget.
- When Tilhill begin extracting the windblow, the contractor will also clear campsite and burial site. This is likely to start in June.
- RJ Dickson are not going to extend the FSE certification to the new forest. There is little financial loss as the windblow is low-grade timber. This won't be a problem once we enter Tilhill scheme.
- KCFC is now reservoir manager for Powdermill Dam. RB is named contact. Notification of 10 year inspection from SEPA has been received. Insurance is required.
- Buggy/Mule. Engine has seized after oil filter fell off while delivering wood fuel in Kames. RB is stripping the engine down with Andy. Final cost of repair is not yet known but will be kept to minimum by Heath Robinson. A more robust vehicle is required but able to be afforded.

Hydro (big build up to this section was given. Bugle calls were heard)

- Scottish Water visited to assess the reservoir. They need to either breach it to get volume below requirements of Reservoir Act, or continue to pay for inspection which involves getting heavy equipment to the site. KCFC have the option to buy the reservoir for £1 but would then take on either of the above responsibilities. RB has discovered that the scour valve is still fully functional and could be used in Heath Robinson mode to allow regular releases of water to keep the hydro operating at good capacity. This could potentially increase the income from hydro significantly. RB will investigate further.
- Co-Hydro visited to balance the turbine and all is running well now. The problem with the valves that hadn't been opening properly has also been solved. Lots of big words were used. A Nerd Alert was issued.
- FiT money is anticipated for Q4 2015.
- Compost
 - The contract with A&B council ends next week. RB has sent emails to two people asking for information. No response has been received to either.
 - Options on how to proceed were discussed. The Board agreed that RB should try to make contact again by email and, in the meantime, continue to provide the facility and submit invoices until further notice from A&B council. It may be necessary to seek support from councillors.

Actions: RB, MB

Treasurer's Report

- Projected income and expenditure was presented. Cash-flow has been temporarily eased while repayment of loans is delayed. (RB gasket under renewed threat)
- New bank card has been applied for.

Director Training

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- This has been arranged for 8th March. Skills Assessment form to be completed by directors in advance and emailed directly to John Black.

Actions: ALL

Woodland Burials

- The area has been marked out. The board agreed to accept the offer to use the Tilhill contractor to prepare the area.
- Planting decisions need to be made for along the access road to the site. Woodland Trust tree packs arrive week beginning 7th March and the planting weekend has been arranged for 1st to 3rd April. The ground will need to be prepared beforehand and a meeting will be arranged to plan what to plant where.

Actions: RB, SM, AP + anyone interested

AOCB

- Volunteer Fridays will start from Friday 8th April
- Nikki's

Actions:NB

DONM

Thursday, 17th March, 2016. 5 pm. With Guinness.

Addendum

- Disgruntled minute taker would like to point out that the problem was not with the computer charger but in the socket.