

Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, 15th September, 2016

Present:, Rob Borusso, Mick Eyre, Di Wilson, Nikki Brown, Ali Porter, Mark Bamford, Steve Williamson, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies: Jo Coley, David Hunter, Willie McAllan

Declarations of Interest: Interest still reported Missing in Action.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposing: DW

Seconded: SW

Matters Arising: All on agenda

Development Manager's Report (NB was welcomed back)

- Severe cash flow because of delays of felling. Coop overdraft facility has been reduced. Tilhill £250k advance is due to be paid. Richard has been investigating options to enable salaries to be covered until felling brings in income. **Action NB** will follow up enquiries with Coop Bank and CIS.
- Timber extraction agreement has arrived today. Price fixed at £23k per tonne. Extraction to begin next week.
- Finances from Auchenlochan deal can now be put into the next financial projection. Lawyers are now close to finalising deal. **Action RB** will find out if VAT is paid on servitude routes.
- There was discussion about the impact of Brexit on KCFC's financial situation. **Action RB** will speak to Kirsten at HIE about effect of Brexit.
- Woodland Burials. HIE won't fully fund project worker post for two years. This wasn't considered a serious problem.

Housing

- A&B Building Control have still not responded re Building Warrant. All documents requested have been submitted. It was suggested that contact with is made with a more senior official in the planning department and that members of the board should be the ones to do this. A draft letter has been prepared emphasising the unique position of KCFC and noting that our budget for getting through the planning stages is, at around £1700, significantly lower than that of a commercial developer. The possibility of raising this issue with the Scottish Government department for rural housing was also discussed as another approach to resolving the issues surrounding the building warrants.
- In relation to the building warrant issue, Sara noted that the Climate Challenge Fund want an update on the warrant for the Low Carbon Classroom. Sara agreed to submit an addition to her latest report to the CCF to the effect that 'the board decided to hold back the application for the Low Carbon Classroom building warrant while attempting to resolve issues surrounding the level of service from the planning department over the building warrant for the low-cost housing'. **Action SW** will make contact with the planning department.

Climate Challenge Fund (report submitted by Sara)

- Home heating audit – more households are required to sign up. Board suggested SM put a post in Tighnabruaich FB groups, speak to Rev Mitchell and local groups such as The Rural.

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Apprentices

One apprentice's probationary period has had to be extended due to sickness leave.

AOB

- Hydro income is 1.5 export 4/5 quarterly feed-in tariffs. Smartest Energy are no longer going to be dealing with FITs. A new energy supplier will need to be found. **RB** will deal.
- Draft Youth Skills Development report had been emailed by ME beforehand and final version presented. The board were impressed. Future suggestions for community engagement discussed and agreed.
- Rural Housing. SW and WM have drafted criteria for selection, which will be submitted via lawyers to Scot Gov for approval. RB will attend Rural Housing AGM in Inverness. Land registry paperwork has all been finalised.

CWA event in Forres - RB, ME are attending. One more place available.

DONM: Thursday, 27th October, 5 pm.