



Kilfinan Community Forest Company

Minutes of Board Meeting
Monday, 3rd April, 2017

Present: Steve Williamson, Mark Bamford, David Hunter, Ali Porter, Don McInnes, Jo Coley, Di Wilson, Fiona Hamilton, Sara McLean, Nikki Brown, Andy McKenzie, Mick Eyre

Apologies: Rob Borusso

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Proposed: DH Seconded: DW

Treasurer's Report:

Income/Expenditure projection was produced. There is a negative balance at the moment until next hydro payment comes in. There is enough money for wages. It is imperative that money is raised as soon as possible from sale of house plots.

HIE - it is still unclear whether any further funding will be coming from them for the training centre. A contingency plan is needed.

Options discussed were;

Crowdfunding, offering various rewards/perks - (£40k) Eve McFarlane could be asked to help with marketing.

The Bridging loan could be used

Take out a loan - speak to CIS. It was felt this would add to financial pressures.

Make use of Board and local volunteers to get the build started.

CCF have agreed to fund purchase of some materials and salaries but building needs to be finished by end July. CCF took the request to Scottish Government for approval. Funding for apprentices is now finished. A week's notice needs to be issued. **RB** to issue on his return.

A detailed building plan needs to be drawn up. AP offered to get shuttering down and levelled off and pipes installed. A call-out to the community will be made for contributions, practical or monetary. Some of the 'fit out' could be carried out through workshops.

NB will speak to other communities (Mull, Knoydart) about their allocation processes.

Directors should take on responsibility in pairs to focus on different aspects of KCFC to help drive things forward

Housing:

- allocation process & legal work, dealing with the Council (road and building warrant) **DM**, **DW** will take lead. Meet with NB and SW tomorrow pm. Deadline to complete legal work and present to board - 1 month.



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Forest Training Centre:

- Building - **AP, SW** Foundation work to start this week. DM & MB will deal with woodwork. Deadline to start: This week.
- Funding (discuss at next meeting)

Marketing

- Sawmill - Andy to have a look at pricing and marketing. There is a need to move to planed timber, funding bid is being made to purchase a plane and moulder. **JC** to take lead and meet with AM and NB

Development Manager's Report

HIE have raised some issues i.e. what will happen to KCFC development once NB leaves. Mick is happy to take on some of the development role as much overlaps with his current role.

A meeting will be arranged with the new accountant. NB will try to organise for Friday morning, JC and DM will attend.

Woodland burials will be put on back burner until Forest Training Centre is completed.

Princes Countryside Fund won't fund capital projects but would fund a training programme and youth skills project, summer workshops. NB to put an application together.

Eve McFarlane on maternity leave. Newsletters, website, social media. Discussion on whether this role is necessary at the moment. ME will take on coordination in the meantime. **NB** will discuss plans with Eve.

£2k donation has been received from Artemis Trust. It will go towards building Forest Centre.

NB proposed a vote of thanks to Sara for all her hard work on the Climate Challenge Fund project. All thoroughly agreed.

Operation Manager's report

Hydro - FIT contract has been transferred to S&F

Main workshop complete and advertised but no response yet.

Timber income- awaiting projections on income from Tihill.



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Forest Access Coordinator's report

ME has been focusing on the Improving Public Access Fund, SRDP, to improve paths, picnic areas etc.. There are many possibilities for further developing paths that would allow opening up access and links between existing routes, putting in some steps, bridges and picnic tables. Sawmill would be able to supply the wood. Application deadline is 17th May.

Open Day 29th July.

Cycle To Work scheme. It was agreed that KCFC could sign up with the condition that no employees buy cycles without the agreement of the Board.

Saturday Nature Club starts on 15th April.

Branching Out

Sara had a meeting with Branching Out committee. There should be money available to develop the Moving On project at Kilfinan. There might be more money available from Princes Trust. ME will investigate further.

AOCB

It was agreed that everyone reporting to the Board should circulate a brief bullet-pointed report two days in advance of the meetings.

DONM: Thursday 20th April.

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