

Present: Mark Bamford, Steve Williamson, David Blair, Nikki Brown, Marylou Anderson, Mick Eyre, Graeme Nimmo, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies: Di Wilson

Declarations of Interest:

Minutes: Proposed: SW
Seconded: NB

Matters Arising: all covered in agenda

Financial Report: Cashflow projection was presented. There is a healthy balance currently due to timber money coming in, with more expected in April. This means Hot Polytunnel project can be progressed. Sub group needs to be formed. DB, SW and NB will form core group with MA potentially joining in. **Action: NB** will send an analysis of income streams to board.

Forest Access Coordinator's report:

Regular groups, Twigging Out and Woodworking, have now come to end of funding. Other funding options are being explored to keep these successful and much-valued groups running.

Reports have been submitted to FCS on Community Engagement and ME is preparing report for Robertson Trust to be submitted in July, while also investigating possible refunding in near future.

Final croft paperwork has been posted today. The letting applications are with the Crofting Commission and the application to the Scottish Land Court has been submitted.

Two recent weekend courses, Permaculture and Woodworking, have been well attended and very successful with more formal feedback to come. FCS supported the Permaculture course.

Kilfinan Way footpath - terrain is causing problems for the equipment suitable for width of path as funded by IPA. Potential contractor is meeting with ME next week to discuss.

Forest Playground bid has been put through for the public vote. **Action: ME** to contact membership and make use of social media to seek votes.

Kyles of Bute Angling Club: The club has rights to fish three bodies of water and pay to stock them. They are under financial constraints. The two Powder dams belong to KCFC. The Angling Club proposed that the rental fee is waived this year in return for 5 memberships. The club also wants to run an open day in May. It was agreed to seek clarification on how the memberships would operate and to accept the proposal.

Friday Tidy: It was agreed to hold a tidy-up day. **Action: ME** will organise for a Friday afternoon next month and advertise to members and community.

Housing: funding bid has been unsuccessful for the Scottish Government fund for innovative self-build projects. It was agreed that as there has been no interest in self-build plots, Crofters will be able to access the timber available.

Articles of Association amendments still to be completed. Final version will be circulated before submitting to Companies House. **Action: ME**

Community Childcare: Business plan was presented. Meeting with Care Inspectorate is 20th March. It was agreed that use of Forest Centre would only be medium term solution. The suggestion of change of use of forest store to office was discussed. Decision will be made at next board meeting after Care Inspectorate visit.

KAG lease: the lease was discussed and agreed. **Action: MB** to present it to KAG.

Changes to development plan: NB will email MA the changes that were made.

Forest Access Coordinator post continuation: ME will look at Robertson Trust for further funding. Board expressed its full appreciation of ME's work and desire for it to continue.

Workshop Allocation: Interest has been expressed in renting a workspace. Anyone interested should be asked to submit their proposal to the board. **Action: NB and RB** will speak to those interested.

Forest Operations Manager's report:

Forest Centre - decision needs to be made on doors opening onto deck. **Action: RB** will get quotes for options.

Sawmill Operator - The employee would like to change from self-employed to employee status. This will be looked into as what hours would be required. Decision will be made at a future meeting. **Action: MB** discuss and take on mentor role.

Dog Fouling: School is working with Community Council. It was requested that signs be placed around forest paths stating that dogs should be kept on leads. Agreed.

Election of Office Bearers;

Treasurer - Nikki Brown proposed MB, seconded SW

Secretary - Di Wilson proposed SW, seconded DB

Chair - Mark Bamford, proposed NB, seconded SW

Vice Chair - David Blair, proposed MB, seconded FH.

AOCB

DB spoke to Mull hydro scheme re their financing. A better rate for the hydro loan is available with Triodos Bank. **Action: DB** will investigate this further.

Interest has been expressed in establishing another croft. This would result in a new application to crofting commission. The board noted the interest and would welcome receiving a proposal.

DONM

Thursday 5th April. 5 pm.