

**Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office  
5pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

**Attendees:**

David Blair (Chair)  
Robert Borruso

Andrew Graham-Weall

Eamon King

Willie McAllan  
Eve Mcfarlane

Jamie Caplin-Brice

**Apologies**

Robert Blair  
Steve Williamson

**Welcome from David**

**Minutes of the previous meetings**

28th Jan proposed correct by WM and seconded RB

28th Jan proposed correct by EM and seconded DB

**Matters arising**

Forest operations manager Jamie is in post as is deputy Colin.

SW preparing contracts

EM to be Nikki point of contact.

EK is to follow a lead regarding the Weir trust (set up by euromillions winners) discussions centred around how to make our work fit in with their funding goals. It was decided that our best approach would be to emphasise our efforts to improve access to the wood and try and attract funding for path improvements.

WM Has community payback meeting of the 21st

EK reported Scottish water will be carrying our further repairs to the reservoir in March

### **Hydro scheme**

Discussion was had regarding the cost of commencing the Hydro scheme, figures in excess of £300k are quoted in the feasibility study. DB and RB believe that taking the project 'in-house' would reduce this figure substantially. However, a significant amount of working capital will still be needed. Pursuing further sources of funding whilst preferable to a loan would take longer and might not deliver. WM stated that core funds cannot be relied on forever to tide the company over while searching for grant/donation money.

WM to contact coop bank with regard to a business development loan and develop business plan. RB to assist with information re housing.

### **Felling licence**

EK stated that the consultation period finished on 12th March and assuming that throws up no issues felling could start in early April.

### **Rhododendron clearance**

EK explained the complexities of drawing down the monies for rhododendron clearance, the major problem being that the funders require us to hold liquidity equal to the grant award for 3 years after draw down. This clause makes project delivery almost impossible for many organisations. It was suggested that 16 hectares of forest could be 'held back' and offered as collateral. EK is in conversation with funders to try and resolve this issue. It was agreed that rhododendron clearance should not be allowed to hold back the rest of the project.

### **Phase 3 issues**

RB to design 'retail outlet' with JCB

A need for a fuel tank has been highlighted however in the short term EK can buy unlimited red diesel from Holy Lock marina 25l at a time at 88p l this is considered an adequate stop gap solution

**AOB**

Thanks to SW from chainsaw repair.

Date of next meeting 11th March