

## **Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office 5pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

### **Attendees:**

David Blair (Chair)  
Robert Borruso  
Robert Blair  
Eamon King  
Willie McAllan  
Eve Mcfarlane  
Jamie Caplin-Brice

### **Apologies**

Andrew Graham-Weall  
Steve Williamson

### **Welcome from David**

### **Minutes of the previous meetings**

20th Feb proposed correct by EM and seconded WM

### **Matters arising**

AGW advised his intention to stand down from board; still happy to help where possible.

### **Felling and felling licence**

EK stated that the consultation period finished on 12th March. It is suggested that JCB meets Tom Davies to establish a relationship with FCS. It is proposed that EK ask EGGER for breakdown of Mixed Conifer values, in particular sawlogs of Corsican pine and Larch.

### **Rhododendron clearance**

EK has forecast a need for 6 months cashflow. EK has spoken to Ross Petro (contractor for rhody clearance) and it was suggested that he could take a loan from his bank to cover waiting for money from the Scottish Government.

### **Contracts**

EK's contract discussed, expiring July with future options to be clarified.

### **Treasure Report**

WM explained that the cashflow situation continued to be challenging and that KCFC banked funds would struggle to meet ongoing costs in the event of any delays in payment by the funding agencies. The Stage 3 and Awards for All accounts are fully committed. The Board agreed the only permanent solution to the cashflow challenges is to develop income from retail sales, forest crofts and hydro scheme as soon as possible to provide long term security to KCFC. Income from the forthcoming felling will provide valuable short term assistance but this will be insufficient in itself to fund the development work required to establish the multipurpose building required for retail sales, forest crofts and hydro scheme. The Board agreed that approaches should be made to seek support from local individuals who may be prepared to make a donation, provide an interest free loan or invest money in the forest for a specified commercial return. It was thought that the hydro has the greatest investment appeal with donations and interest free loans being better suited to help with KCFC in general. DB agreed to approach community contacts over Easter period.

### **Hydro scheme**

In response to the current cashflow being insufficient to fund external contractors to develop the hydro scheme, DB offered to personally lead on the pre-planning phase. He will be supported in

this by RB. It was hoped that the extensive work DB put into establish his own hydro scheme would provide a 'blueprint' for FCFC's scheme. This in-house approach would allow progress to be made despite the present funding challenge. It was noted that the grant has been agreed to pay for the Section 10 survey to confirm the reservoir is in good order prior to sale. £600 is required for SEPA application.

### **Forest Crofts and Multipurpose Building (office, retail sales, training space)**

The plan is to build the multipurpose building prior to building the crofts in the PDA. This has the dual advantage of bringing income and reducing costs to KCFC and also allows us to establish a building plan and style acceptable to the Planning and building authorities. The challenge is to raise the money required for the multipurpose building which has been estimated at about £25,000. RBO said he was prepared to consider a formal arrangement with KCFC through which he would personally fund the multipurpose building and progress the planning permissions for the forest crofts in exchange for a building plot in the PDA. He would take the risk of planning permission being denied. It was estimated that the cost of the building and the time required for planning permission etc would be roughly equal to the value of a building plot with planning permission. The Board were in agreement in principle and invited RBO to present a more detailed proposal to the next Board meeting. It was noted that any agreement would require a legal contract and that RBO would likely have to resign his directorship due to potential conflicts of interest.

### **Forest Design Plan**

SW keen to make headway, JCB keen to help. JCB and EK require board's vision to create an accurate plan. Board want options of what plan might contain. JCB and EK to discuss and develop vision to bring back to board.

### **Business Plan**

WM and EK agreed to review existing plan and create an updated plan on a spreadsheet.

### **AOB**

JCB proposed researching installation of electric to top yard from current 3-phase system.

JCB proposed deer management plan, needed for Scottish Natural Heritage for part of scoping report and thus FDP.

Garden building, PN for planning to be delivered to council 12/3/13

Future agendas to include 'Report by Operations Manager'

EM suggested that meetings be more concise, with detailing being left to subgroups. Separate directors meeting discussed, to be trialled at next meeting.

### **Date of next meeting**

25th March 2013