

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office 5pm on Monday 25th March 2013

Attendees: David Blair (Chair), Robert Borruso, Robert Blair, Willie McAllan, Eve McFarlane, , Steve Williamson **Apologies:** Eamon King, Jamie Caplin-Brice, Andrew Graham-Weall

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meetings

11th March proposed correct by RB and seconded RBL

Matters arising

1. Felling and felling licence
 - a. EK expects to hear from FCS next week
 - b. JCB to meet Tom Davies to establish a relationship with FCS.
 - c. Awaiting EGGER response to request for breakdown of Mixed Conifer values, in particular sawlogs of Corsican pine and Larch.
2. EK to speak to Ross Petro (contractor for rhody clearance) re loan from his bank
3. The timber processing shed will be powered by generator as other methods are too expensive.

Minute

Report from Development Officer

Appended

Report from Operations Manager

None – JCB on holiday

Report from Treasurer

WM has designed a spreadsheet which calculates monthly cash flow requirements and provides the underpinning of the Business Plan. This shows the necessity to carefully phase expenditures to avoid significant recurring overdrafts. The tool makes assumptions which need to be clarified and needs to be fine-tuned from the finalised 2012-13 accounts. Nevertheless, it is now clear that KCFC requires significant additional cash to achieve objectives beyond the currently grant funded activity and there is insufficient income on the immediate horizon to extend EK contract beyond July 2013. Income from Phase 1 felling will be insufficient to continue EK contract, establish the pilot building and the hydro scheme. The Board decided:

- o EK to be advised that contract will terminate in July 2013. It was agreed EK's priorities for the final 3 months will be to complete the development of recreational opportunities and path network; begin the development of the heritage aspects of the forest including the dams, curling pond and any archaeological finds; and open up new funding streams including a bid to Scottish National Heritage. The Board will be fully supportive of any bid draws down new funds to support the continuation of his current post or develops a new employment role for EK provided the new funding largely covers salary and employer costs. EM and WM to meet with EK to advise contract position and to clarify future priorities.
- o Work would continued to encourage local benefactors to support KCFC activity and the hydro proposals in particular
- o Consideration would be given to RB's proposal to fund the construction of the pilot building and achievement of planning permission etc for the housing plots in exchange for a housing plot of comparable value.

Employee issues

1. EK will be supported by WM from now on.
2. JCB will be supported by SW.

3. NW will be supported by EM.
4. Alec (volunteer) nearing end of his placement. Board agreed to offer Alec contract for 10 days to complete forest network and install drainage on school path at £120/day from Awards for All budget.

Discussion RB proposals (RB's paper, WM comments)

The Board fully discussed the options for funding the pilot building and planning permissions for the proposed housing plots. The current land value for each plot is currently under £2,000 which makes RB's offer of £15,000 for one plot very attractive. The essence of RB's offer is that he is taking the risk that KCFC will eventually get planning approval which he believes will increase the value of the plot above £15,000. KCFC benefit by getting £15,000 cash to use to build the pilot building plus RB's unpaid time spent on gaining planning approvals for the pilot building and house plots. The Board agreed in principle and that there will now be 7 plots (previously 6 plots). RB was invited to submit his proposal in detail and advised that the detail must be agreed in full before proceeding to draw up a legal contract. RB's proposal should include the following:

- FCFC Board will decide location of plots but RB will have first choice of plot
- All plots, including RB's plot, will be subject to the same terms and conditions including KCFC retaining rights.

Forest Design Plan

SW leading on this work. Next stage is to work with EK to draw up the required maps.

Hydro

DB leading on this work. Contact has been made with SEPA. The application fee of £600 will likely be incurred in April 2013.

'Phase 3'/Forest Operations

It was agreed that 'Phase 3' terminology was confusion. 'Phase 3' actually referred to the funding source and that there was no requirement for demarcation between different aspects of the forest operations. For now on 'Phase 3' will be referenced as 'Forest Operations' and all of these activities will be in the Operation Manager's remit.

Awards for All – WM

Progress being made on all fronts. Community Payback have asked to visit forest on Wednesday 27/03/13 at 2.00pm. WM is not available but SW will be available. WM will email all involved with an update on progress.

Recreation and heritage

- Board members visited the Victorian dams on the Alt Mor and were impressed by the heritage potential. It was thought Heritage Lottery may be a potential funder to develop this resource.
- WM advised local archaeologist Hazel Macfarlane is assisting with archaeological research and survey of forest. A cup marked rock is located on the eastern side of the Alt Mor and there are hopes of similar on KCFC land.
- Priority should be given to completing the path behind school.
- EK's report advised he had arranged with Froglife (Glasgow University) for them to fund a series of new ponds in the forest later this year. This will improve biodiversity and add visitor attraction. All present thought it worth pursuing the possibility of creating a ranger post supported by Scottish Natural Heritage funding.

AOB

There is an urgent need to recruit more directors.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 8th April 2013 at 5.00pm