

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office 5pm on Wednesday 10th April 2013

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

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meetings

25th March proposed correct by SW and seconded EM

Matters arising

1. Felling and felling licence: no progress. JCB to chase.
2. JCB to speak to Eric Boyd (another contractor for rhody clearance) re a cheaper quote.

Minute

Report from Treasurer

Nothing to report.

The Board discussed whether KCFC should be VAT registration the company is now on the verge of spending on large items and selling forest products. It was decided to hold off on making the decision. WM to investigate.

Employee issues

Alec (volunteer) has been offered 10 days and is working on to completing the forest network and installing drainage on school path at £120/day from Awards for All budget.

Discussion RB proposals

The Board has made an agreement in principle to RB's proposal. RB to submit his formal detailed proposal before full agreement can be made.

The Board discussed the issue of ownership of the affordable house plots. It was recognised that a system of ownership was needed that a) didn't put people off buying the plot/houses and b) retained the benefit of the houses for the community into the future. The key aim is to provide affordable housing for families and we need to in place a system that prevents the houses being sold on as second homes. It was agreed that there must be one principle that is applied to everyone and no ownership deals with individuals. Various options were discussed, including: a clause that means that house must be sold back to KCFC at district market value and a large interest-free loan that's only payable to KCFC if the house it sold on.

- SW to talk to property solicitor about various options
- RB to talk to various financial bodies, including Ecological Building Society
- Andrew to seek advice from Anthony Harrison

Forest Design Plan

- Everyone agreed that Eamon's maps were impressive and a good starting point for discussions with the Forestry Commission.
- JCB is meeting with Peter Quelch to discuss the initial plans for the FDP and how to take it forward.
- The Board discussed restocking in the non-recreation areas and agreed that mixed woodland looks better and prevents disease.
- It was confirmed that KCFC has sporting right and there are people locally who we can contract to cull the deer. We can sell and retain some meat to use at our events.

Hydro

- DB has submitted pre-planning application to case officer at SEPA. Will need around £1,000 to cover application fee and various surveys.
- It was agreed to close down current CARES loan for wind and put in another application for hydro. CARES will cover grid connection cost and planning permission.
- Feed-in tariff for hydro is changing on 1 April 2014. Application must be lodged to OFGEM by 31 December this year. For this we'll need approved SEPA application, planning permission and grid connection.

'Phase 3'/Forest Operations

- Agreed that Colin should be given training for his chipper ticket. JCB to contact Drew.
- JCB to start using mapmaker while Eamon still here for support.
- Everyone was reminded that those working in forest operations – including volunteers – must wear PPE.
- William has been in touch to say he has a garage he wants built. JCB to liaise.
- 6 volunteers are coming from HELP next week to work on paths and rhodys.

Awards for All – WM

Progress being made on all fronts.

AOB

- There is an urgent need to recruit more directors
- DB has contracted the Forest Operations Team to organise the venue for his wedding.
- Agreed that Michaela should make contact with Nick Ferguson and Digby Guy re: future funding.

Date of next meeting

Monday 22 April 2013 at 5.00pm