

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office at 5pm, Wednesday 15th May 2013

Attendees: David Blair (Chair), Willie McAllan, Robert Blair, Eve Macfarlane, Steve Williamson, Fiona Hamilton, Eamon King, Jamie Chaplin-Brice, Nikki Woolf

Apologies: Andrew Graham-Weall, Robert Borruso

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meeting: 1st May proposed correct by DB and seconded by SW

Minutes

Rhododendron clearance

Management plan – EK to speak to head conservator of FCS in Perth to determine formal procedure to help get this approved.

Wood chipper course

NW has confirmed that Colin is booked onto the course in Dumfries on 24th May, with his assessment scheduled to take place on 28th May.

CARES Grant

- a) Board to read through CARES document regarding loan approval.
- b) Eamon to investigate payback deal.

Accounts

WM to schedule a meeting with accountant to take place end of next week (24th May).

Forest Design Plan (FDP)

- a) J C-B had a meeting with Tom Davies (FCS), who informed him that it is expected to take 9 months to put together a FDP. Jamie to identify possible areas needing professional consultation and get quotes.
- b) J C-B and EK to attend SRDP consultation meeting in Tarbet on 23rd May.
- c) EK and J C-B to resubmit concept map on 20th May to assess FCS feedback on fresh documents.

Reservoir ownership

Scottish Water is doing its own inspection of the reservoir, with no update expected until the end of May. EK to share final documents with the board when received.

Archaeology

- a) EK to request a meeting with Coralie Mills (environmental archaeologist); WM and Hazel Macfarlane to also attend.
- b) Board and staff to keep an eye out for potential archaeology that might open up the forest.

Summer work programmes

WA spoke about a summer jobs scheme for 8 young people from the area (distance/ location TBD), offering them an apprenticeship with the opportunity to learn key forestry skills. A second option would be to also offer a forest apprenticeship to 1 young person.

- a) EK to speak with the HELP project.
- b) FH suggested making contact with Aileen Goodall (16+ Learning Choices Lead Officer, Dunoon Grammar School) and Pam Rodway (Soil Association – works with crofting connections programme – would know about forestry apprenticeships). EK to contact.

‘Volunteer For Skills’

EK is applying for funding from Voluntary Action Scotland for chainsaw, first aid and chipper training, as well as PPE equipment for 15 volunteers.

VAT registration

WM to speak to accountant about becoming VAT registered, and any issues regarding KCFC being a charity.

DB meeting with Helen MacDougall (HIE)

- a) DB to update board as to when Helen will be visiting the forest.
- b) Scottish Land Fund – now looks unlikely to assist with the purchase of the next area of forest. DB to ask Michaela to contact CWA, to register KCFC’s interest in support of Scottish Ministers appealing to Europe to retain local aid.

Development Officer position

- a) DB exploring the possibility of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) increasing funding beyond July to support the continuation of this post. WM and DB to put a case forward to Helen MacDougall, outlining salary level, key activities (for continuation period), how much

funding is required, and what KCFC can contribute. Also, the reasons why KCFC has not delivered in securing the extension of this post.

- b) DB and WM to discuss the possibility of funding from the Batchworth Trust, and to contact Angus Campbell ahead of the trustee meeting in June.

Woodland crofts

- a) EK had a meeting with Jamie MacIntyre (Woodland Crofts Officer, FCS). EK working on legal documentation (allocation policy, lease and application form).
- b) EK to phone crofting commission so plots can be marked out when felling is done.

Operations Manager report

- a) J C-B emphasised the importance of high visibility work wear to be worn by all entering felling site. Anyone wishing to enter the woods must check with J C-B first.
- b) Burrow pit – might be an option to locate the saw mill once stone is removed.
- c) FSE accreditation – awaiting update from R Dixon.
- d) Jamie meeting with SSE – due to siting of the saw mill the electricity could be cheaper than previously thought. Way leave was highlighted as KCFC is currently not receiving payment. J C-B to pursue.
- e) Wagon load of hardwood from Bute – J C-B to get quote, and to call Brendan Quinlan at Ardlamont to discuss possibility of local timber from there.
- f) NW/ J C-B to order tractor tyres and organise service from Cammy.

AOB

- EK to speak to Stuart Dillon re removal of caravan at the bottom field.
- EK highlighted that Mike (Contracts Manager for Egger) is organising for a brash bailer to come in.
- The board agreed that the Operations Manager report should be further up the agenda.
- NW organising KCFC email address for FH.

Date of next meeting: 29th May 2013