

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office at 5pm, Monday 12th August 2013

Attendees: David Blair (Chair), Fiona Hamilton, Willie McAllan, Steve Williamson, Andrew Graham-Weall, Nikki Woolf

Apologies: Robert Blair, Robert Borruso, Jamie Chaplin-Brice

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meeting: 29th July proposed correct by EM and seconded by FH

Operations Manager Report

Phase 3 spending

- Cashflow is critical since the phase 3 project needs to be tied up/ costs accounted for by end of December 2013. J C-B suggested applying for a bank loan in order to spend grant aid freely and get claims drawn down quickly.
- WM looking into £75K Co-operative fund.
- R Borruso's £15K loan is for one year, subject to trees being felled and suitable area established for planning.
- NW/ J C-B to check with LEADER about claiming January/ February 2014 salaries.

Timber harvesting

- Mike Yerbery visited on Tuesday 6th August. Expected that the harvesting team would be back at the end of the month as anticipated.
- J C-B has asked Mike for extraction costs for the timber we have held back, also for any further timber we wish to hold back.

Access road

- Ross MacArthur due back next week to repair the road.

- KCFC has paid the £14,400 interim payment as requested.
- Peter McKerral has visited and confirmed that the road is too steep but is salvageable with levelling and a good cap.

Stuart Jack, missing timber

- Stuart called in on 30th July, stating that some of his treated timber has gone missing from the compost shed.

FSC certification

- Further to a meeting with Colin MacNair 30th July, work on FSC certification is on hold. Colin has suggested that certification should be included with the Long Term Forest Plan given that progress with this has sped up.
- Certification will still be managed through the RJ Dixon FSC group-scheme, with Colin MacNair as the contact. This will cost around £300 plus VAT annually.

Firewood processor

- The processor has arrived.
- R Borruso suggested he could make an electric drive (7.5kW) for the processor, which would free up the tractor. To be discussed.
- WM commented that we need to decide how much wood to put aside in storage; need to ascertain demand for business plan.

Tighnabruaich hotel

- Tighnabruaich Hotel has requested a wagonload of firewood (26 tonnes). J C-B to set a price and firm up the order.

Sawmill

- J C-B awaiting delivery instruction from Keith Threadgall and we have no invoice as yet – J C-B to update the Board on progress.

Forest Operations Building

- Sawmill needed to cut the larch to clad this, otherwise all progressing well.
- R Borruso confirmed that one more 'long' day is required to get the roof on/ EPDM on site. Good weather is essential for laminating up the roof deck.
- J C-B has spoken with KAG members regarding their specific wants and needs and will look into fulfilling these in due course.

HELP volunteer

- Concerns have been raised over a HELP volunteer's attitude and safety. J C-B has inducted him and had a chat about what he wants to achieve with us here; J C-B to update the Board.

Bench making demo

- No takers for the garden bench making day. J C-B suggested this could perhaps be marketed through "events" on Argyll secret coast website.
- Concerns were raised over the sense in running this course when we are selling benches here.

Portavadie Christmas Market

- Suggested that KCFC should take a table at Portavadie's Christmas Market (30th Nov-1st Dec). NW to organise.

Awards For All

- Colin and J C-B have started making the panels for the AFA signs, with help from Don McInnes.
- Fiona Hamilton's stump, at the school – suggested that the second AFA workshop be arranged around this; A G-W, CB, SW and DB to visit school week after next.

Spraying

- Colin has suggested that the path up the bank from the compost shed be weed-killed as strimming seems to have little effect.

- SW to look into a spraying course to be run at KCFC (part community council, part voluntary action fund).

Tractor/ trailer vs telehandler

- NW to get comparative quotes.

Rhododendron

- NW to check post for contract and chase quote from Ross Petro.
- Suggestion that we involve volunteers to clear a set area; NW to contact SSE.

Long term forest plan

- The LTFP is now scoping, and Scottish Water and Barney Crawford have now been contacted.
- J C-B has been in touch with Tom Davies regarding additional felling prior to completion of the LTFP; J C-B to submit application.

Treasurer Report

- WK confirmed that the draft trustees report is with Ailsa Close, ahead of the AGM.
- Business plan for HIE's potential assistance with crofts – WM to circulate amongst the Board once he is satisfied with it.

Minutes

Electrical supply

- R Borruso is hoping to get a quote by the end of the month; RB to update the Board.

Office building

- R Borruso has started preparing the formal planning application; working on maps next week.
- R Borruso is having a meeting with a structural engineer in London; to update the Board on outcome.

Housing

- R Borruso suggested formalising a long term housing strategy; RB to start work on this and present to the Board for discussion/ approval.
- DB suggested a selection criteria be devised as part of this.

Hydro

- DB spoke to SEPA – license about to be issued; has put in an application for export connection. DB to update the Board on progress.
- DB to submit planning application this week.

Reservoir survey

- Keith Raffan (SVA Auctions) is currently away; DB to update the Board on possibility of splitting two smaller reservoirs.

AOB

- Marketing meeting to be arranged – NW to email A G-W and J C-B to arrange.
- SW has confirmed that the remaining funding is due in from Paths For All; SW to update.

Date of next meeting: 28th August, 5pm

