

Minutes of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company Board of Directors, held at the Office at 5pm, Wednesday 28th August 2013

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

Apologies: Robert Blair, Andrew Graham-Weall

Welcome from David

Minutes of the previous meeting: 12th August proposed correct by WM and seconded by SW

Operations Manager Report

Access road

- Machines are back on site; line good and levelling OK (a bit more to do on the burrow pit). Final survey needed from Gregor.
- Road still needs a cap; RM not willing to do this. The Board agreed that money should only be released once rock is crushed and road capped.
- WM suggested a timeline be devised (outlining what and when agreed actions need to be completed) and submitted to RM. Email with timeline to be sent to RM once the roller arrives.

Cash flow

- LEADER due to pay money into the Co-op account following recent submission of claim 3. NW to monitor.
- Woodmeizer sawmill to be purchased next week. J C-B to update the Board on progress.
- Dec 13, Jan & Feb 14 phase 3 salaries need to be claimed under different headings, due to the project ending at the end of Dec; J C-B to submit a claim request form to LEADER.
- J C-B to look into the Seedcorn Fund for March 2014 onwards salaries.

EGGER

- Harvesters expected back in 2/3 weeks; money to be paid to KCFC one month after harvesting has finished.
- RB informed the Board that Portavadie pier has been condemned, meaning no timber can be delivered via that route. Could be 2/3 months before the pier gets repaired, which could delay felling. J C-B to discuss with Mike Yerbery and confirm impact on KCFC operations.

Rhododendron clearance

- Bridge loan to be investigated – WM and Michaela looking into possible sources.
- Contract to be put together and signed by Ross Petro. Terms to include assurance that rhododendrons will be cleared and retreated 1 year on (within agreed budget). SW to work with J C-B to devise contract.
- Volunteers to be assigned to a designated area – NW to contact SSE.
- J C-B raised the point that the rhodo project is outside of his phase 3 remit. He is keen to focus on phase 3 related activities given tight timescales to complete the project by 31st December 2013, therefore has requested to move away from the rhododendron project once the contract is finalised and submitted to Ross Petro.

Long Term Forest Plan

- Ian Thomas (Independent plan writer) is prepared to help out with the plan at a rate of £1500 (plus VAT), with J C-B's assistance. J C-B to acquire a timeline for the work.
- Harvesting plan – J C-B to arrange a separate Board meeting to discuss (and invite Ian along).

Met Mast

- NW confirmed that a new masting company has been in touch (originally part of Chillwind, now Meteoright), offering assistance on any relevant services required. KCFC to bear in mind for the future.

- SW to apply for a planning extension (as long as possible, 3 years ideally); DB to discuss length of planning extension with Steven Gove (A&B council planning dept).

Entrance signs

- J C-B confirmed that planning permission is almost approved.

Shed

- J C-B looking into planning process.
- J C-B looking into timber vs steel sheds as options.

Possible wedding at KCFC

- NW and J C-B to have a meeting on Friday with a couple (and Tents & Events) potentially looking to get married at KCFC in Jan 2014. J C-B/ NW to report back to the Board on outcome.

Telehandlers

- J C-B has looked at two possible options - a JCB from Hamiltons and a Manitou from A.T. Best. J C-B to order Manitou once change of request has been approved by LEADER.
- NW to organise a meeting with Annemarie (LEADER) to try and get change of requests, etc pushed through.

Interpretation panels/ entrance signage

- NW/ J C-B to write a formal letter of thanks to Don McInnes once entrance signs are completed

Fraser Brown

- It has been proposed that Fraser be co-opted as a Board Member. Post code issue to be discussed at the upcoming AGM.
- Fraser has agreed to attend the next board meeting to meet everyone and confirm his interests/ what he will bring to the Board.

Treasurer Report

- WM circulated a growth plan amongst the Board, to be proposed to HIE for potential support of the housing project.
- Kirsten Logue has suggested a meeting on 6th September to discuss the growth plan; J C-B to confirm with Kirsten. J C-B, RB, DB, WM to be present at the meeting.

Minutes

Electrical supply

- Power lines – RB asked SSE for two quotes for 3 phase power and they only quoted for the larger supply. RB to chase quote for smaller supply.

Forestry Education Initiative

- FH confirmed that the Forestry Education Initiative cluster group is looking to visit the forest in November; the Board agreed that this would be OK subject to forest operations.

Awards For All

- FH discussed the possibility of Hazel hurdles or similar which would form a boundary for the school's mud kitchen. Would also provide a frame for future creative possibilities, such as weaving, during playtimes. Possibility that this could be organised as the second Awards For All session.

New Office Building

- Possibility that this could be part funded by HIE, if KCFC can demonstrate that this would stretch to training/ learning, etc.

AGM

- Originally scheduled for 26th September however it was decided that timescales would be too tight to organise necessary documents ahead of time. New date proposed for 10th October. NW to discuss what documents need to be collated/ distributed with MH.

Date of next meeting: 23rd September, 5pm