

Board of Directors

Minutes

of meeting held in Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre
at 7.30pm on Monday 8th February 2016

Present		Apologies	In Attendance
John Graham	Andrew Leaver	Peter Smith	Donnie Chisholm
Graeme Scott	Mark Hedderwick	Peter Masheter	
David Garvie	Calum Fraser	Warwick Lister-Kaye	
Anne Forsyth			

Item	Action
<p>1 Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Smith, Peter Masheter, Warwick Lister-Kaye 	
<p>2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None declared 	
<p>3 Minutes of meetings of 11th January 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These were proposed by Anne Forsyth and seconded by David Garvie. 	
<p>4 Outstanding actions not covered on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The discussion on trustee indemnity insurance was once again held over until an independent insurance specialist was available to answer questions. Community Broadband Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey is now closed with 57 responses received. The report is being prepared by Neville Lee. An update was provided on the Ward 13 project. It was agreed for Davd Garvie to continue to monitor this but for ACF to progress investigation of our own scheme in parallel. Mast lease renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback had been provided to CKD Galbraith since the last meeting and a revised Heads of Terms is awaited. 	
<p>5 Development Officer Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of activity is covered elsewhere on the agenda. Donnie had met with the new owner of a strip of woodland between the A831 and the River Beauy which bounds ACF to the east. There is a potential for collaborative working in the future, particularly in relation to horse logging in ACF. Donnie has agreed with Simon McLaughlin of RSPB Corrimony to help each other out as a second person when needing chainsaw work done either at Corrimony or in ACF. Teanassie Primary had been in touch about another visit to the forest. 	

Item	Action
<p>6 Future Funding Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew provided further information about proposed funding applications being developed by him and Donnie: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SSE – funding to provide up to eight volunteers with chainsaw training and to purchase four chainsaws, a log lifter and a log splitter thus supporting the establishment of a volunteer-led firewood business. ○ Forestry Grants Scheme – match funding towards the log lifter and log splitter. ○ The Woodland Trust – funding to enable a roundwood timber framing course to be delivered at Aigas with the participants building a firewood drying and tool storage shed as part of the training. ○ BIG Lottery – funding to secure the current Development Officer for a further three years on reduced hours and focusing on forestry and possibly a second part-time development officer to focus on community-development activities such as volunteering, education and access and recreation. • The Board agreed the general approach to all four applications. • All these applications are due for submission in March and April and will be a priority for Andrew and Donnie over the next few weeks. 	<p>AL/DC</p>
<p>7 Deer Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deer management group has met twice. • The first meeting was to discuss future monitoring arrangements and the second to short list applicants for the stalking contract. • Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the Rural Payments scheme (formerly SRDP) a 3rd party estimate of deer numbers is required if seeking forestry grants. ○ This exercise is funded by Rural Payments but only after the Forest Design Plan is approved. ○ It is however acceptable to manage deer in advance of the 3rd party estimate and without the FDP being approved, if the landowner chooses to do so. ○ John Lister-Kaye has been looking for deer tracks in fresh snow over the past few months and reports that numbers in the forest are low at present. • Stalking Contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Five tenders were received and three were shortlisted for interview taking place on 19th February. ○ All four members would be content with any of the three shortlisted applicants. ○ A recommendation will be brought to the next Board meeting. 	<p>DMG</p>

Item	Action
<p>8 Forest Design Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several responses have been received from the FDP scoping consultation. Full copies of each will be circulated to the Board after the close of the consultation period on 9th February. • Responses will then be summarised in a Scoping Report which is provided to FCS as the next stage of the process. A copy of this report will be provided to the Board once complete. 	DC
<p>9 Access and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne reported that she has progressed her work on the paths survey. 	
<p>10 Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing discussed. 	
<p>11 AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board was asked to approve renewal of membership of Community Land Scotland. This was approved. • Andrew noted that Anne had tendered her resignation with effect from the AGM in March. Andrew commented that the Board lacked diversity of gender and age and that he felt more should be done to make it representative of the ACF community. • Graeme presented John Lister-Kaye's offer to begin restoration of Loch nan Losgainn by digging out sections of it with a small JCB. Donnie suggested that we check with SEPA if there are any issues with this approach. The Board agreed that Donnie, Graeme and John Lister-Kaye should meet on site to discuss the proposal and that Donnie should check with SEPA and come back with a recommendation to the Board by email. 	DC

Summary of Outstanding Actions		
Ref	Action	Person Responsible
38/1	Provide a trustee induction session	GS
38/10	Circulate board members skills audit	AL
42/1	Arrange for an insurance expert to attend a future Board meeting.	DC
43/5	Register ACF for VAT	GS
46/1	Make a recommendation on appointment of a stalker for ACF	DMG
46/2	Circulate a copy of the Scoping Report	DC
46/3	Meet with JLK and talk to SEPA, then make a recommendation to the Board on JLK's proposal to begin restoration of Loch nan Losgainn.	DC

Chair		Date	