

Steering Committee

Minutes

of meeting held in The Magnus House
at 7.30pm on Monday 27th September 2010

Present		Apologies	In Attendance
Graeme Scott	Peter Masheter	Steve Byford	John Lister-Kaye
John Graham	Calum Fraser	Warwick Lister-Kaye	
Mark Hedderwick	Gavin Cormack		
Alisdair Stewart			
Andrew Leaver			

Item	Action
<p>1 Minutes of meeting of 2nd August 2010 The minutes were proposed by Alisdair Stewart and seconded by John Graham.</p>	
<p>2 Matters arising from the minutes → Review of agreed actions from 02/08/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/3 – Andrew confirmed that ACF had contracted with VirginMoneyGiving.com as third party on-line giving website. VMG was chosen as its costs were lower than the market leader JustGiving.com. All links are in place and donations can be taken on-line. • 20/4 – The Company Membership leaflet had been designed, printed and mailed to residents of the community. 22 people had joined as company members and £75 in donations had been received. • 20/9 – The Golf Tournament had taken place on 12th September. Nine teams had taken part and a number of organisations had provided sponsorship. Around £900 was raised. 	
<p>3 Membership of Community Land Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew outlined an invitation from the newly formed Community Land Scotland to become founder members. The role of CLS is to represent the wide ranging interests of community groups who own land, including forests. • Andrew noted that his wife had been involved in developing the CLS concept and business plan and Graeme noted that he had also been involved in development of the business plan. • The remainder of the committee agreed to join CLS. John Graham to attend the CLS inaugural general meeting on 28th September. 	J Graham

Item	Action
<p>4 Letter from Falck Renewables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew had received a letter from Alasdair MacPherson at Falck Renewables. This had been circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. • The letter outlined Falck's current interest in developing a windfarm on land adjacent to the Forest and invited further discussion with ACF. • It was agreed to conduct further discussion. Andrew and Graeme to contact Falck representative and feedback to Committee for further consideration. 	<p>G Scott A Leaver</p>
<p>5 Latest on Pine Tree Lappet Moth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Lister-Kaye and John Graham (both owners of registered forests) had both received statutory papers from Forestry Commission Scotland outlining restrictions introduced on the felling and transporting of timber because of the presence of the PTL Moth in Aigas Forest and other nearby woodlands. • FCS is currently undertaking further study on the Moth in all affected woodlands. At this stage there has been only very small numbers (less than 5) of moths trapped in any one woodland in any one year. • The felling and transporting restrictions are in place in order to minimise the risk of transfer to other forests. • John Lister-Kaye explained that the Moth has a detrimental effect in two ways: its' larvae can defoliate the trees (this requires larvae in large numbers) and it also reduces the trees' resistance to viral infection. • PTL Moth has caused significant damage to forests in mainland Europe but never in Scotland. The population in Strathgalss has been present for at least 5 years with no sign of a rise in numbers. • At the time of valuation (Dec 2009) the Moth was known to be present in the Forest and the DV took this into account. However, the felling restrictions are new and it was agreed that consideration should therefore be given to requesting a re-valuation. • FCS is hosting a meeting for forestry owners and other interested parties on 5th October. John Graham and Alisdair Stewart to attend this and feedback to the committee before contact is made with FCS about re-valuation. 	<p>J Graham A Stewart</p>
<p>6 LEADER/ Ward Fund Development Projects</p> <p>→ Progress on re-draft of business plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graeme has met with Jon Hollingdale from the CWA and has also received a first draft of a woodfuel assessment. • The woodfuel assessment presents an alternative to the commercial felling plan proposed in the Bell Ingram 	

Item	Action
<p>study. The draft does not provide detailed financial analysis but JH has commented that it is likely to be as viable in financial terms as the conventional forestry model and it would have a greater community benefit through employment opportunities and provision of low cost carbon-neutral fuel. If we are successful in securing the Forest this could be the subject of a more detailed business plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Hollingdale has also been testing the figures provided by Bell Ingram both by physical observation in the Forest and by checking the model. He has confirmed that they are substantially correct. • Changes to the NFLS allowing greater flexibility, and so the possibility of renting rather than purchasing the forest, were highlighted at the meeting of 2nd August. FCS have not yet published guidance on how this rent will be set but once they do the rental value will be fed into the business plan and brought back to the committee for discussion. <p>→ Plans for printed literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding exists to produce a fundraising leaflet for the Forest. Andrew expressed concern that until the decision was made between purchase and rental it is difficult to properly explain what funds would be used for and so production of this leaflet has been temporarily halted. • The website still actively solicits donations using very general language. Once a decision on the way forward is made the site can be updated very quickly. 	<p>G Scott</p>
<p>7 Fundraising and PR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A newsletter was distributed to the community about two weeks previous to the meeting • A Forest Open Day was held on Sunday 26th September and was attended by 25 – 30 people, the majority of whom were families with young children. An Aigas Field Centre ranger provided a guided walk through the Forest and signs were put up to allow people to take a self-guided walk. • Mark noted that FCS had only recently provided permission for the proposed mountain bike event and that it was now too late to hold this before the winter. It may still go ahead in 2011. • Andrew proposed an on-line auction and asked if committee members would provide goods and services to sell as well as help solicit other contributions. It was agreed to go ahead with this idea. 	<p>A Leaver</p>
<p>8 AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no other items of business 	

Summary of Outstanding Actions		
Ref	Action	Person Responsible
18/2	Draft a list of private sector targets and consider the best way to approach each of them as individuals or in a group	John Graham Peter Masheter Steve Byford
19/6	Investigate potential for a debenture scheme. Contact Douglas Graham on same subject. Discuss with Steve Westbrook as part of business planning process.	Andrew Leaver Graeme Scott
20/5	Contact Lord Lovat to invite him to be a Forest Champion and figurehead for the 'Adopt a Forest' campaign.	Andrew Leaver
20/6	Contact Plexus to identify costs for enhancement to website to include video / graphic for 'Adopt a Forest' campaign.	Andrew Leaver
20/7	Progress planning for bike event.	Mark Hedderwick
21/1	John Graham to attend the CLS inaugural general meeting on 28 th September.	John Graham
21/2	Andrew and Graeme to meet with Falck representative and feedback to Committee for further consideration.	Andrew Leaver Graeme Scott
21/3	John Graham and Alisdair Stewart to attend FCS Pine Tree Lappet Moth meeting on 5 th October and feedback to the committee	John Graham Alisdair Stewart
21/4	Once FCS have published guidance on rental values, feed these figures into the business plan and bring back to the committee for discussion.	Graeme Scott
21/5	Progress planning for on-line auction.	Andrew Leaver

Chair		Date	