

Minutes

of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday
26th June 2017

Present		Apologies	In Attendance
Russell Ross Simon Longman Greg Jackson Liam McLaughlin	Graeme Scott Peter Smith Philip Masheter Mark Hedderwick Neil Valentine	David Garvie	Peter Masheter Sir John Lister-Kaye Ron McLaughlin Dave Bloor Steve North Helge Hansen John Graham (Treasurer)

Item		Action
1	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received from David Garvie P Smith took meeting notes. 	
2	<p>Declarations of Conflict of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 	
3	<p>Minutes of meeting of May 8th These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance. Proposed – Simon Longman; Seconded Pete Smith</p>	
4	<p>Outstanding actions not covered on the agenda.</p> <p>Telecoms Mast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JG updated the Board. There is now 4G via the O2 equipment on the mast with an upgrade of Vodaphone to come shortly. An agreement with CTIL for mast rental plus other mast income will benefit ACF to the tune of £10k pa for the next 20 years. <p>Tractor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tractor has been purchased from the Forestry School. It is a Massey Ferguson 165 tractor with Crane. £6k plus VAT. We will also install a three point linkage. This will enable the tractor to connect to the processor, lift it for moving around site and stabilise it when in use. The tractor is limited to on road use as it is 2wd. We plan to purchase a forestry trailer too for £3190 plus vat. Neil V informed us that a winch is coming our way also. A discussion ensued as to whether a small digger 	

	<p>could be on our “shopping list” too. It was generally agreed that this would be a great advantage not only in pulling out windblown trees for firewood harvesting but also for general work on paths and infrastructure. Given the current potential for spend on fencing it was agreed that GS would update the cashflow forecast to enable discussion at the next meeting. PS asked that we consider providing formal training in tractors and potentially diggers.</p> <p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We currently have 7 people in 2 classes of different stages of chainsaw training led by NV. As well as leading them to gain their tickets in chainsaw use to enable ACF work, the students are currently cutting clearings and deer lawns to facilitate deer management in future. In addition, firewood has been produced and is at the roadside and “ candles” have been produced potentially for selling. PS to check into sale outlets. 10 people have been trained up as First Aiders and 9 are now trained and qualified to run the processor. <p>Fencing Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HH asked the Board to consider use of current cash reserves to make a strong effort to deer fencing remaining areas where deer could still enter the forest and damage our young trees. Helge has produced a detailed paper with 3 options on this but some clarification maps of intended areas of fencing would help some members. 	<p>GS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>HH</p>
5	<p>Work Group Reports</p> <p>1. Paths and Access</p> <p>PS had circulated an update of activities and plans of this group. Meetings have been held between some of the local mountain bike fraternity and ACF and there seemed to be a lot of common ground. In addition, the Facebook page is proving to be a good mechanism for communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs. We discussed the flip type signs called signal signs for which we had been awarded a £1500 grant. This will pay for 4 or 5 of these high quality articles in key places. They will need graphics and we have agreed that Roland should follow this up as it has been his project. A more simple sign for paths was discussed. This could be simple round plastic discs or painted rings on posts as is common. Fire Risk Signs have been produced and will need installed. Notice board. A Notice board will be manufactured and positioned in the car park. RR has experience of making these and has potentially offered his knowledge and labour. Firebeaters. A dozen have been purchased by JG and we have started to distribute them around the forest. Some will need some kind of post or fixing. 	<p>RSJ</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main gate and Car Park Local fencing contractor Davie Reid has installed strainer posts at the site of the new gate prior to putting up a new gate, possibly of deer height. The present gate has had one padlock removed so there is only one for control purposes but if contractors require access, we have the second one to use. We need to find out if JLK is willing and able to finish off the car park earthworks. Greg to check. • Stone bridge and lade bridge on Walk 1 Work is in progress on both with Mia checking whether grant funding available to underpin the old stone bridge. RSJ and Helge worked on the lade bridge and it is now functional. Discussion ensued about guard rails or anti slip material such as chicken wire but consensus was that minimal is better as long as it is basically safe. • Fundraising PS contacted Paths For All No to be informed that more grant cash is available in 2017 but we can try next year. Access Group may set up a summer gathering eg BBQ open to wider community to see if we can get some volunteers for future work projects. <p>2. Harvesting. The limited clearfell in spring of this year has netted £58k from app 2000 mT of softwood timber. Previous estimates had been to take app 1200 mT at £14k net We had planned for 300 mT of buyback for firewood processing but there is a realization that there could be another 2000 mT of windblow suitable for processing.</p> <p>3. Deer Management The DMG has not met lately but is planned to do so in early July. Pricing for proposed fencing will be required.</p> <p>4. Wood Fuel As above but meeting planned next week.</p>	GJ
6	<p>Financial report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JG gave an update on current balances, near term expenses and income. The situation is looking healthy at the moment but capital costs for plant and potentially fencing will make a large dent in this. 	DC
7	<p>AOCB. Sir John wanted us to know that 2 students from Exeter University will spend time as residents starting autumn this year. They are potentially available for help with wildlife and ecology projects.</p> <p>HH informed the Board of an award from Scotland's Finest Woods Awards. ACF were considered Highly Commended by judges in the Large Community Woodland sector.</p>	

The next meeting will be held on Aug 12th. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm