

## Minutes

of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Present		Apologies	In Attendance
Greg Jackson <b>GJ</b> David Garvie <b>DG</b>	Graeme Scott <b>GS</b> Peter Smith <b>PS</b> Philip Masheter <b>PM</b> Neil Valentine <b>NV</b> Russell Ross <b>RR</b> Helge Hansen <b>HH</b>	Liam McLaughlin Mark Hedderwick	John Graham <b>JG</b> (Treasurer) Andrew Leaver <b>AL</b>

Item		Action
1	<p><b>GS</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received from Mark Hedderwick and Liam McLaughlin</li> <li><b>PM</b> took meeting notes.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of Conflict of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None noted</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of meeting of April</b> These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance.</p> <p>Proposed – <b>NV</b>; Seconded <b>GJ</b></p>	

<p><b>Agenda items</b></p> <p><b>Chairman's Business</b>  <b>GS</b> will meet with <b>HH</b> to carry out a 10 year cash flow projection for the forest. Needs and potential income over this period will be looked at in detail.  It was discussed at length (later during the meeting) that If sufficient funds were available a decision on whether or not to erect an external deer fence will be made at the next board meeting in August.</p> <p><b>Vice Chairperson</b>  There was suggestion from <b>PS</b> that a Wildlife working group could be set up to work in conjunction with the Field Centre. Currently Ben Jones (field centre) has been has been doing wildlife studies in the forest.  <b>GJ</b> has suggested that Ben could attend a meeting to give a short talk on his progress/activities (<b>GJ</b> to arrange).  A meeting was attended by <b>JG</b> to discuss extension dates for timber movement with regard to the laptic moth. It would appear that there could be flexibility with these dates for ACF in the future.</p> <p><b>Report from forest manager HH</b>  Helge reported that the forwarder had gathered up all the felled timber and the deer lawn timber had been cleared to the roadside. Most of the timber has been transported away with the exception of a few large pieces of timber. Shane has offered to purchase these. 12Ha of scots pine still to be felled along with previously discussed windblow that requires to be gathered.  Other small parcels of woodland felling with the potential to be brought forward will be further discussed.  <b>HH</b> produced a detailed report on cost scenarios for protecting restock which was circulated prior to the meeting.  The report generated much discussion on the following 3 options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Internal deer fencing</li> <li>2) Erecting an external fence  Note: it is acknowledged that Raymond Fraser has a scheme to create a few hundred meters of deer fence which marches with ACF and this will reduce the length of fence required by a small amount.</li> <li>3) Providing no protection for the restock</li> </ol> <p>After much deliberation on the options, option 1 is not favourable due to cost. A decision on whether or not to erect an external deer fence will depend on whether there are sufficient funds available. A decision will be made on this option at the next board meeting in August.  Post meeting note: It is acknowledged that there are at least three pinch points on the proposed external fence line. These are: At the Crask, above the Farmhouse and adjacent to Aigas loch. It would be ideal if concerned parties could arrange to meet on site with <b>HH</b> to resolve any potential problems.</p>	<p><b>MH</b></p> <p><b>NV</b></p> <p><b>PM</b></p>
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Work has begun on installing signs for paths though path 1 still has some large trees to clear and it is intended to mill these close to where they lie.

Post meeting note: the sign for the park area has now been installed

### **Matters arising not covered elsewhere**

**NV** gave an update on training and indicated that there were candidates for windblow courses which includes the horse logger and another forest contractor. These individuals may also be utilised to clear logs to accessible areas and buy low value timber which may have to be removed on occasions down other roads through the farm and Crask. Other tracks have been surveyed over the last month or two with a view to clearance to assist with deer management at the request of Nick Richards.

Neil Armstrong is requiring some larch for his own milling and will be utilised for milling larch for the machinery sheds in the not too distant future.

Forest college volunteers as well as local volunteers were used for recent temporary fencing and planting near the lochan. The job has been completed and it was a useful exercise to understand the viability of erecting temporary fences for restock which was reflected in **HH's** report.

One volunteer has offered to provide IT support for the volunteer section on the website.

Prices have been sought for the hiring of a digger and dumper for car park work and other tasks.

**RR** reported that members of the public are often using the Crask car park to access the forest due to lack of direction. He suggested that signage should be erected to help people to access the correct parking area. **PM** to assist with drafting artwork to purchase signs.

### **Paths and Access sub-group report**

**PS** reported that work on installing flipper signs is work in Progress

Drainage for path one above the lade is required.

Clearance of felled trees on path one is work in progress.

No further reports on mountain biking activities though records for accidents and near misses to be established.

Control of bracken regeneration was discussed as it could cause problems in the future.

**Wood fuel**

**JG** gave a brief report on the recent wood fuel sub group Meeting. The deer lawn timber is now by the roadside and is available for processing or to be sold to other markets.

**Deer management sub group**

**PS** gave reports on 2 recent meetings. Nick Richards' Contract will continue for a further 3 years. The combined total of deer dispatched is in excess of 50. It is assumed that this has reduced the breeding stock. There are however 30-40 deer regularly seen in the fields adjacent to the forest. The numbers of deer per Ha for unprotected restocking is still considered to be too high for restocking to commence. It is assumed that if there is continued success with deer culling, the overall the deer numbers per hundred Ha will fall, but not quickly enough to allow successful restocking in the near future.

Figures for tolerable numbers of deer per hundred Ha can be found in **HH**'s report on cost scenarios for protecting restock.

**Financial Report**

**GS** went through the accounts and there was some discussion on depreciation figures. Currently there is £84000.00 in the bank account, further sales of timber that has already been transported out should bring the figure up to £91000.00

**GS** to work out VAT.

It is estimated that the annual cost of operating the forest would be approximately £25000.00.

**AOCB**

**GS** reported that Mia was applying for funding for a social event for the restoration of the Catholic church at Eskadale. ACF members could be involved with this. Further information to follow.

There will be a separate meeting in September for an AGM (date TBC).

Two new board members to be elected.

The meeting closed at 2145Hrs

The next meeting will be held in the Magnus house at 2145Hrs on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week in Aug (TBC)
