



AIGAS COMMUNITY FOREST

Coille Coimhearsnachd Aigeis

Scottish Charity: SCO41614

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday 3rd. December 2018

Present

Peter Smith PS
David Garvie DG
Greg Jackson GJ
Russell Ross RR
Phil Masheter PM
Neil Valentine NV
Andrew Leaver AL
John Graham JG

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH
Madeleine Robinson MR
Graeme Scott GS

Apologies

Chloe Denerley, Mark Hedderwick

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None noted

Minutes of Meeting of 1st October 2018

These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance.
Proposed JG. Seconded GJ. Approved.

Chairman's Business

PS reported that the driver involved in the wood lorry accident on 20th November had fully recovered.

PS suggested that thought should be given to the possibility of associate members being eligible to become officers of the Board.

Vice-Chairman's Business

PM had nothing to report.

Financial Statement

GS presented the Financial Statements for the year ended 28th February 2018.

VAT registration is now completed and backdated to 1st March 2017.

PS thanked GS and JG for the work they have done in achieving this.

Report from Forest Manager

Harvesting

HH reported that he had met with Casey Keller from Scottish Woodland and James Jones the haulage contractor on Wednesday 28th November. There will be no more lorry movement until the road has been made good. All the timber is now roadside.

The Ladies Walk has been scraped and the brash cleared.

PS reminded the Board of the importance of public access to the forest and the potential problems of maintaining this alongside harvesting activities in the future. It was agreed that the Paths and Access subgroup would consider this issue once the Felling Plan was available.

Fencing

Davy Reid plans to start line clearance before Christmas and fencing in the New Year. His contract includes cattle grids and gates. HH is to research cattle grid noise following concerns expressed by AL. PS offered that noise could be mitigated by traffic calming measures if necessary.

Planting

Approximately 200 native broadleaves have been planted by volunteers above the golf course and in the hairpin bend area. A further 200 plug trees are still to be planted.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Good progress has been made on the cabin. RR has sourced doors and windows. Covers are to be used to protect the tractor and machinery until the cabin is completed.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

Concerns were expressed about the risks associated with the bike trails. HH is meeting the bike trail users group on 15th December and will raise these safety issues.

RR asked about signage directing people from the Crask passing place to the forest entrance. PM has this in hand.

Deer Management

There has been no meeting in the past 2 months.

Woodfuel

JG reported that processing will start again soon. VAT will have to be charged at 5% on firewood and 20% on lengths.

Wildlife and Ecology

The Board approved a request from PS for funds and materials for various feeding stations, boxes and feed. These could be developed into visitor attractions.

Mapping important wildlife sites is to be prioritised so that they can be protected from disruption.

PS expressed enthusiasm for developing a small scale tree nursery.

Financial Report

JG reported that there is in excess of £116,000 in the bank with an estimated £40,000 still to come in from Scottish Woodlands.

Secretary's Report

MR had nothing to report.

AOCB

PS asked PM to pass on the Board's best wishes for a speedy recovery to his father, Peter Masheter.

Responding to an email from Jon Hollingdale of the CWA about their LEADER trails project, JG will contact him to express our interest and ask him to liaise with PS,HH and NV.

PS will approach Liam McLaughlin about his ongoing commitment to ACF in view of his non-attendance at Board meetings.

The meeting closed at 2100

The next meeting will be held in The Magnus House on Monday 4th February 2019 at 1900.