



VAT. No. 310378531

## **Minutes of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday 27th January 2020 at 1900.**

### **Present**

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

### **In Attendance**

Helge Hansen HH  
Sir John Lister-Kaye JLK

### **Apologies**

Graeme Scott GS  
Chloe Denerley CD

### **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None declared

### **Minutes of Meeting of 2nd December 2019**

These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance.

GJ who had not been present at the meeting on 2nd December raised a query relating to the minutes. He disputed that in the discussions prior to 2nd December it had been agreed that AFC would be responsible for the labour to erect the length of plastic deer fencing above Aigas Loch. JLK stated that AFC had not accepted exclusive responsibility for maintenance. NV pointed out that AFC had already done a substantial amount of work moving materials to site and cutting down trees. JLK said that AFC are currently short of staff but that hopefully in 2-3mths time will be in a position to move matters on. PS agreed that AFC would be responsible for maintenance.

Proposed AL. Seconded PM. Approved.

## **Chairman's Business**

PS had nothing to report.

## **Vice-Chairman's Business**

PM had nothing to report.

## **Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager**

More than half the felling is now completed but not all the wood has been sold yet. HH estimates a total return of £80-100,000 which is higher than the original estimate. This should give a profit of about £60,000 after expenses such as road works and traffic control. Road closures are expected during 1 week towards the end of February with harvesting complete by the end of March. AL asked for reassurance that paths will be restored adequately. HH and NV confirmed that this will happen.

Davy Reid is now upgrading the existing stock fence that will meet up with the lower end of the plastic netting fence.

HH reassured JLK that the track leading S from the Hammerhead at the W end of the forest road will be scraped to restore it after the fencing work.

The deer fencing will continue in the Crask area once the timber is extracted.

JLK was concerned about the risk of disturbance to birds. NV reassured him that Scottish Woodlands were aware of the situation and would be bound by the rules protecting wildlife. HH said that a small digger only would be used for path restoration and the access point would be close to Druimnaleach.

JLK has arranged a meeting in February with PS, the police wildlife officer and SSE to discuss the disturbance to wildlife caused by leisure activities on the river.

JLK will keep HH informed of the status of any nesting birds.

PS confirmed that any work at risk of disturbing birds such as ospreys would be delayed if necessary.

## **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.**

NV said that all the materials for the tractor shed are now on site. Work will start when RR has time and the weather improves.

## **Sub-Group Reports**

### **Paths and Access Group**

The group met on 20.1.20. Notes from this meeting had been circulated.

Some remedial work is planned for problem spots on Path 1.

A new walking route known as Path 2 is planned along a forest track to the W of Loch nan Losgann. HH showed this on the forest map.

A possible new MTB beginner track is under discussion. This will not be taken further until work has been completed by the MTB group to sort out safety issues with existing tracks.

The next meeting is on 23.3.20 when it is hoped to walk some paths. DG will circulate the Board with information about this.

### **Deer Management**

PS reported that deer numbers had been reduced with about 13 shot in the past year.

### **Woodfuel**

The group met on 22.1.20. Notes from this meeting had been circulated. The Board agreed to apply for inclusion on the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) as an approved woodfuel supplier under the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme.

### **Wildlife and Ecology**

The group met on 16.1.20. Notes from this meeting had been circulated. JLK will arrange for a repeat pond dip and pH measurement at the lochan. Work will continue on birdboxes, feeders and wildflowers.

### **Financial Report**

The bank balance currently stands at about £156,000. JG suggested introducing a development budget allowing expenditure up to a sum of say £7,000 before returning to the Board for further approval. This was proposed by MH and seconded by GJ with unanimous support from the Board. PS and JG will meet to formalise guidelines under which this would operate.

### **Secretary's Report**

MR reminded everyone about the First Aid Course on Saturday 1.2.20. The next meeting was on 13th April but as this is Easter Monday a number of Board members are unavailable. MR will reschedule the meeting and let everyone know.

### **AOCB**

PS thanked JLK for our continuing use of the Magnus House.

**The meeting closed at 21.05**