



VAT. No. 310378531

Minutes of the Board Meeting held outside the cabin at Aigas Community Forest on Wednesday 12th August 2020 at 1830.

Present

Peter Smith PS
John Graham JG
Phil Masheter PM
David Garvie DG
Hermione Lister-Kaye HLK
Neil Valentine NV
Madeleine Robinson MR
Mark Hedderwick MH
Graeme Scott GS
Chloe Denerley CD

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH

Apologies

Russell Ross RR
Andrew Leaver AL

PS welcomed HLK who is replacing Greg Jackson as the AFC representative on the Board.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared

Minutes of Meeting of 27th January 2020

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

Chairman's Business

PS raised the possibility of delaying the AGM. GS advised the Board that a 3month delay was permitted. The previous AGM was on 7th October 2019. PS will explore options considering the coronavirus situation.

Vice-Chairman's Business

PM had nothing to report.

JG thanked PM for all his help in the purchase and garaging of the John Deere Gator.

Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager

HH reported that most timber has now been extracted. A strip of clear felling and thinning on the steep slope will hopefully start by the end of August and be completed in 4-6 weeks with extraction for 2-3 weeks after. HH will ensure path restoration by the contractors as soon as possible after this work is complete.

It is hoped that the deer fencing will be completed this year, particularly as we are obliged to replant the clear fell areas by the end of 2021. Planting will ideally start in Spring 2021.

Jim Mann is planning to move the majority of the pigs but is happy to leave a few piglets and the fencing. HLK offered that AFC staff could help with feeding. HH suggested moving the pigs back to the first enclosure and possibly to a lower area for the winter. PS would like JM to provide some written guidance on pig maintenance. The Board agreed to keep some piglets.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.

NV pointed out the good progress on the tractor shed with the metal roof sheets partially in place and due to be completed the next day. PS thanked RR,NV,HH and the volunteers for all their work. The next construction phase will accommodate the Palax processor and the Gator with a lean to for the Logosol. A deck is planned at the back of the cabin.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

No meeting. PS reported that the mountain bikers have returned. NV said that 2 new benches are in place on Path 1. The concrete plinths for the footbridge have been constructed by Steve Cotterill and the timbers are on site. High pruning is ongoing to improve the amenity of various areas.

Marker posts are in place on Path 2. Colour coding and direction arrows will be added.

Deer Management

No meeting. The stalker is expected to be back in soon.

Woodfuel

No meeting. JG reported sales of firewood, long wood and building timber had earned £6730 since January 2020. HH said that all firewood stocks were gone and a few more processing days were needed.

Wildlife and Ecology

No meeting. PS commented that better communication was needed with AFC. HLK will look into whether wildlife surveys have been completed and what could be done in the future.

Polytunnel Group

PS reported that a site below the cabin has been marked out provisionally and research is ongoing.

Financial Report

JG gave a brief summary of income and expenditure from January to present. He is comfortable with the current situation. GS reported that the accounting is up to date and he intends to complete the accounts for Companies House this year without requesting a Covid extension. JG thanked GS for his help and support with VAT matters.

Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

AOCB

GS referred to a mountain bike accident in July. HH will log this in the accident book.

The meeting closed at 19.35

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday 5th October at 1900 in Kilmorack Hall.

