



VAT. No. 310378531

Minutes of the Board Meeting held at the cabin in Aigas Community Forest on Monday 21st June 2021 at 1900.

Present

Peter Smith PS
John Graham JG
Andrew Leaver AL
David Garvie DG
Neil Valentine NV
Madeleine Robinson MR
Graeme Scott GS
Chloe Denerley CD

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH

Apologies

Russell Ross RR
Phil Masheter PM
Mark Hedderwick MH
Hermione Lister-Kaye HLK

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared

Minutes of Zoom Meetings of 10th and 26th March 2021

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

Chairman's Business

PS had nothing to report.

Vice-Chairman's Business

PM not present.

Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager

HH reported that wood prices have risen and it is estimated that the next phase of felling should be worth in excess of £350,000. Hopefully Scottish Woodlands will

start work in the next week above Aigas Loch then move on to the mast area. Access for walkers will be closed for 6-8 weeks and signs will be displayed both in ACF and at AFC. HH has discussed this with HLK. HH expects that Davy Reid will be able to get access to complete the fencing in the area adjoining AFC in early August.

Bog restoration work continues in the area NE of the Hammerhead which will be replanted with wetland species. Neil is working with Connor, David and Simon and also providing winch training. The felled wood is sold to local firewood contractors which covers costs.

Once working in the Torr a' Bhealaidh area Scottish Woodlands will arrange road closures as appropriate and HH will ensure that Crask residents are kept informed. The opportunity will be taken to get cutters in to deal with trees that need attention on the E side of the A831.

PS asked HH to speak to Davy Reid about the cattle grid and associated drainage work at the Crask.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere.

Nothing raised.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

Not met.

Deer Management

The group met on Monday 14th June. The stalking contract with Nick Richards has been renewed for 3yrs. There will be no shooting in the buffer zone adjacent to Aigas Loch during October.

Wood Fuel

No meeting. JG reported that firewood sales of approximately £8,000 are predicted in this financial year. Costs and profitability are being monitored. Training days for the wood processor are being planned at a cost of £650 per day for 4 people. NV commented that he would like to see more diverse training and activities in the forest which might necessitate some sort of building or shelter.

Wildlife and Ecology

No meeting.

Short Term Working Group on Equipment

JG reported that the flail mower has arrived, the trailer is expected in early July and the tractor hopefully by early August. The tractor will be taxed for the road and able to do wood deliveries. A tarpaulin to cover the wood processor has been purchased.

NV informed us of the intention to move the wood processor to the quarry. Some work will be required to improve access.

Financial Report

JG reported that the current bank balance is more than £175,000.

Secretary's Report

MR passed on a request from MH for Board meetings to start later. It was agreed to start at 19.30 in the future.

The AGM will be held in conjunction with an open day on Saturday 18th September.

AOCB

None.

The meeting closed at 20.05

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday 2nd August 2021 at 19.30 at the ACF forest cabin.

The AGM and Open Day will be held on Saturday 18th September 2021.