



Minutes of meeting held Monday 2nd August 2021 at ACF cabin.

Apologies: Madeleine Robinson, Graeme Scott, Andrew Leaver, David Garvie, Chloe Denerly, Hermione Lister-Kaye

Present: Peter Smith, John Graham, Phil Masheter, Russell Ross, Mark Hedderwick, Helge Hansen, Neil Valentine

Minutes of last meeting: Proposed by John Graham, seconded by Neil Valentine – passed.

Chairman's Business- No report

Vice-Chairman's Business

- Road repairs to the forest road above the Crask have been done with some added drainage
- Defib at the Golf Club will be installed soon. The Board were in agreement to support a previous promise to support this to 50% of cost;
- Flail Mower has been set up, tested and trialled satisfactorily.

Forest Manager's Report.

- Extraction from the Lade area has been finished.
- Brash will be chipped and removed in two to three weeks. Should be some net income to ACF
- Road and tracks will then be tidied
- Contractors now felling the mast area.
- Fencing-meeting with David Reid who plans to commence mid August. Rises in materials post Covid will need to be considered.

Russell Ross questioned with the high price of timber could the forest process and supply milled timber products such as fence posts and construction material. General discussion about the viability of a new Mill ensued and the Chair, with the support of the Treasurer, suggested that could be considered by the Short term working group on equipment. It is ground that has been covered before as an aspiration. New funding from felling and increasing saw log prices may make it a viable proposition now.



Peter Smith brought up the issue of the buffer zone with Aigas Field Centre. Helge and Neil clarified the situation from the forest's standpoint.

Russell asked if firebreaks were desirable where we have thinned and Neil told us that much of the old brash had decomposed so little need for worry so far and prompt replanting with native hardwoods will lower the risk of fire spreading.

Sub-Group Reports

No meetings have been held by Paths and Access.

The Deer Management contract has been signed and delivered to Nick Richards. An injured hind has been reported in a group containing a calf. The situation is being watched to see if the calf belongs to the injured hind. A pig has been reported to be working around the edges of the eastern forest.

Woodfuel has not met.

Wildlife and Ecology has not met.

The Short term working group on Equipment has not met but the tractor is expected in late August.

Financial report – we have circa £160k in the bank and expect good income flows soon from the current felling.

Secretary's Report - None

AOCB – plans for the open day should be discussed at the next volunteer's meeting. PM suggested getting a flyer put together to be handed out at the open day. We will also need one to advertise the event itself. It was asked whether Graeme Scott might play fiddle at the open day.

Pete Smith suggested it would be nice to congratulate Hermione Lister-Kaye and Greg Jackson when they marry next week.

Meeting closed at 20.10