



VAT. No. 310378531

## **Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in the Magnus House at Aigas Field Centre on Monday 11th October 2021 at 1930.**

### **Present**

Peter Smith PS  
John Graham JG  
Madeleine Robinson MR  
Graeme Scott GS  
Chloe Denerley CD  
Russell Ross RR  
Phil Masheter PM  
Hermione Jackson HJ  
Mark Hedderwick MH  
Bob Hemingway BH  
Jo Young JY

### **In Attendance**

Helge Hansen HH  
Sir John Lister-Kaye JLK

### **Apologies**

Neil Valentine  
Andrew Leaver

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

None declared

### **Appointment of Chairman**

PS was re-appointed as Chairman with the approval of the Board. Proposed by JG and seconded by RR.

### **Appointment of Other Officers**

AL will continue as Company Secretary. PS will confirm his agreement.  
JG continues as Treasurer  
MR continues as Secretary  
PM continues as Vice-chairman with the approval of the Board. Proposed by PS and seconded by JG.

## **Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 2nd August 2021**

These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance.

Proposed JG. Seconded JY. Approved.

### **Chairman's Business**

PS said that he wished to review the Articles of Association. GS, JG, PS and MR volunteered to join a working group for this purpose. GS suggested that PS asks AL if he wishes to be included.

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

PM noted that the defibrillator sited at the golf clubhouse and co-funded with ACF has been advertised on Facebook.

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

HH reported that road closures had started that day. Most of the residual felling will now be done manually. He expects the target income of more than £300,000 to be reached and gave a detailed explanation of the agreed timber pricing structure. He hopes felling will finish around the end of November with the majority extracted by the end of the year. Davy Reid the fencer has obtained the materials needed to complete the fencing and he intends to start work around the 18th October. He will complete the fence above Aigas Loch first then move to the Crask area. During the road closures some dead elms on the East side of the A831 will be felled, largely to waste, by Simon Dakin as they would be difficult to retrieve. BH asked about the tidying up after felling. HH said that Scottish Woodlands will make good the damage to pre-existing paths. A digger will then be required for further path work at ACF expense. This might be delayed until the better weather in the spring. HH suggested a drone survey as a tool for path development. HJ suggested using ROAVR for this. PS said that the Paths and Access Group would discuss this.

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

Nothing raised.

### **Sub-Group Reports**

#### **Paths and Access Group**

No meeting. PS, David Garvie, MH, RR, BH, JY, PM, NV and MR all expressed interest in attending this subgroup. A meeting was arranged for Monday the 25th October at 19.30 in the golf clubhouse.

#### **Deer Management**

No meeting. Greg Jackson, PS, PM, HH and NV will form this subgroup.

**Wood Fuel** No meeting. JG reported satisfactory sales of firewood, long wood and building wood. The processor will be moved to the quarry soon reducing the traffic

on the road and the lochan area will be tidied up. JG, PM, HH and NV volunteered for this subgroup.

### **Wildlife and Ecology**

No meeting. CD, Calum from AFC, PS, RR, HJ and MR volunteered to attend this group. NV will be asked if he wishes to be included. A meeting was fixed for Wednesday 3rd November at 17.30 in the Magnus House at AFC.

It was agreed that information on all subgroup meetings should be circulated to the entire Board and all subgroups are open to anyone interested in attending.

### **Financial Report**

JG reported that the current bank balance is £172,000. Outstanding Scottish Woodland invoices will raise that to £253,000. The tractor has not yet been paid for but there has been no price alteration. It is due to be delivered on Thursday 14th October.

GS said that he is on schedule to lodge the statutory accounts by the end of November.

### **Secretary's Report**

MR reminded the Board that a figure of £7,000 for toilets had been included in the projected cashflow for 2023. She requested that this project should be brought forward and advised that an increase in the budget might be needed. It was agreed that MR, BH and JY would form a working group to progress the project and report back. GS said that it was important provide good quality facilities and suggested a revised budget of up to £10,000.

### **AOCB**

JLK presented an update on attempts to limit wildlife disturbance caused by leisure activities in Aigas Gorge. Discussions have taken place with various parties including the Wildlife Liaison Officer from Police Scotland, the Highland Council Access Officer, representatives from Nature Scot, local commercial watersports operators and canoe clubs. Although some bodies have taken appropriate measures, overall JLK thought the response had been poor. Advisory signage is in place but JLK reported that there is no political will to enforce wildlife protection within the current legal framework.

PS pointed out that ACF does not have riparian rights but will support the protection of wildlife where possible.

MH drew attention to the APF Forestry exhibition in Warwickshire in September 2022 and recommended it to the Board.

HH said that Cathryn Cotterill had volunteered to help with ACF input on social media and she was looking for guidance on what we wished to achieve from it.

JY pointed out that the last ACF newsletter was in 2019. PS undertook to produce a new communication and HJ offered to help with information on wildlife.

Various potential forest activities for the future were discussed briefly but no commitments made at this time.

JY queried whether as a charity there was a limit to the amount of money we could hold in our account. GS said that in theory OSCR might query it but with our future planned expenditure and fluctuating income he did not envisage a problem.

The meeting closed at 21.13

**The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday 6th December 2021 at 19.30 in the Magnus House at AFC.**