



Minutes from ACF Board Meeting held at Kilmorack Hall on the 30th September 2024 at 19.20

Present:

David Garvie (DG) - Chair
John Graham (JG) - Treasurer
Jo Young (JY)
Bob Bull (BB)
Neil Valentine (NV)
Graeme Scott (GS)
Fin Denerley (FD)
Stephen Cotterill (SC)
Phil Masheter (PM)
Russell Ross (RR)
Mark Hedderwick (MH)
Nataša Kenda (NK) - Minutes Secretary

Apologies:

Alasdair Martin (AM) – Forest Manager
Greg Jackson (GJ)

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 22nd July 2024

Adoption proposed by BB. Seconded by NV. Approved.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

None raised.

Forest Manager Report

Circulated pre meeting, everyone is happy with the new content. BB and the Board are grateful and appreciate the interest AM shows in community aspects of the role.

Sub-group reports

- **Paths and Access:** Meeting date to be arranged for the future. A lot has been done and it will be an essential matter in the future. Group purposes, constitution, members and plans will be reflected on the next meeting and discussed with AM. Contactors and future safe access are to be discussed. Anyone can join any groups, not only ACF members or directors.
- **Wildlife & Ecology:** Will plan a meeting and coordinate with AM.
- **Deer Management:** The need to complete the deer fence was emphasised; will meet when it's done.
- **Equipment Groups:** A new mobile strimmer and tractor were purchased and are very satisfactory. The roadsides and paths can be done more frequently and efficiently. Will discuss a new processor and a shelter at the next meeting.
- **Wood Fuel:** The sales are steady and satisfactory; they weren't affected by the price increase.
- **10th Anniversary (5th March 2025):** Everyone is invited to the meeting on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at 2pm at the Club house. Will revisit vision ideas and plan to make regular future activities. A budget of £10,000 was proposed. Planning to refurbish the yurt or purchase a different tent, define and promote membership and review the website Any ideas are welcome to be sent via email.

SSEN Overhead Line Project

DG and JY have attended several meetings, the progress is very slow. SSEN expect to use ACF access tracks for 40 weeks over 2-3 years, followed by maintenance access for the future. Information is vague and not updated. They also plan to set up a site office and new gate for monitoring access, which would most likely exclude community visitors. This is unacceptable to ACF which will hold their ground, following Bidwell's advice. If we reach a voluntary agreement, we can negotiate restrictions and have partial control. Compensation hasn't been discussed yet.

MH questioned the suitability of road's gradient and the need for transparency about the access from Farley. JG pointed out reservations in the community and potential issues regarding Mast.

SSEN Biodiversity Net Gain Planting

No significant update and slow progress. We received a marked-up contract to be reviewed and discussed with our lawyers.

Financial Report

JG reported the invested capital of £361.200, current account balance £86.517,63.

Items of Expenditure

New tractor purchase costed £26.000.

Agenda Amendments

None discussed.

The meeting closed at 20.05. The next Board meeting will be held on Monday the 2nd December 2024 at 19.30 at the Magnus House / Club House.