

Aigas Community Forest meeting 18th August
at the Forest Cabin at 7.30pm

Present:

David Garvie	(DG) Chair
Jo Young	(JY) Minutes
Fin Denerley	(FD)
Bob Bull	(BB)
Mark Hedderwick	(MH)
John Graham	(JG)
Phil Masheter	(PM)
Neil Valentine	(NV)
Alasdair Martin	(AM)
Andrew Lever	(AL) Companies House Secretary

1. Apologies.

Graham Scott (GS)

2. Minutes of previous Board meeting held on 26th May 2025.

Proposed for adoption by JG and seconded by DG.

3. Agenda Amendments.

AL advising the Board re changes regarding the ID of Directors. He is due to submit the next statement on behalf of ACF in January 2026. Photographic ID will be required for current and new directors - AL will send out information and instructions for this process in due course.

OSCR are also about to make similar changes.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting.

None

5. Forest Managers Report.

Previously circulated.

AM still awaiting fencing contractor to review the old boundary fence above An Druim.

Concerns expressed by AM re the management of broom & gorse above Aigas Loch which is unsuitable for ACF machines therefore AM wondering if next payment of £4000 from the planting fund could be considered for this task.

AM had also been contacted by a local house owner regarding the carparks use overnight by campers and the level of noise and number of vehicles. It was agreed that some signage would be considered with guidelines for overnight stays.

6. SSEN Overhead Pylon Line (OHPL)

Information circulated pre meeting. 2 documents to consider.

1st document relates to the Wayleave which is due to be signed but does not actually reflect the discussions which have taken place over the last 18months. The clause, regarding a breach in agreement still requires clarification between SSEN and ACF.

2nd document relates to legacy. Such as funding for internal deer fencing £20,000 to protect current tree stocks and repairs to the Victorian Bridge £15,000 which have been agreed.

Payment will also be received for all aggregate extracted and any sterilisation of forest areas. Servitude fees could be in the region of £100,000.

Some discussion followed around these documents.

The Board agreed in principle with the direction that the negotiating sub-group are taking, pending final documents and legal advice, and that ACF should hold firm in expecting any breach of agreed conditions to cease immediately and be remedied as soon as possible.

7. SSEN Biodiversity Net Gain Planting.

No Update

8. Sub-group Reports

- Paths and Access – awaiting feedback from McGowans who are undertaking survey of new paths on behalf of SSEN.
- Deer management – Hind season now open. Group due to meet.
- Wood Fuel.
- Wildlife and Ecology – 2 Pond Dipping sessions May and August.
- Equipment - Group due to meet.
- 10th Anniversary – previously circulated.

9. Victorian Bridge

Report previously circulated. Neil Nixon plans to return in the spring to undertake phase 2. Clearing of debris between the Victorian Bridge and the Lade Bridges required.

10. The Annual General Meeting

ACF require to replace 3 Directors this year with the resignation of S Cotterill and R Ross and 1 director due to rotate off. All present were tasked with reaching out and seeking new contacts who may be keen to join Aigas Community Forest. We are also in need of a Minutes Secretary.

11. Financial report

£71,136.79. Recent VAT refund of £1,200.

12. Items of Expenditure.

None.

Still awaiting an Electrician to connect wiring from new generator to main cabin and office. No estimate given for this work yet.

13. Any Other Competent Business

JG on behalf of the Community Council raised the topic of Ballach Wind Farm (Erechless) and their proposal to submit a Written Objection to the cost of £1800. This is being supported financially by other Landowners in the area but with a shortfall of £100. It was agreed unanimously that ACF should take a neutral position and therefore would not make a contribution.

14. Date, Time and Venue for the Next Meeting Will be held in Kilmorack hall on the 20th Oct at 7pm, followed by a Board Meeting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 20.45.