

Board of Directors

Minutes

of meeting held in Magnus House
at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd December 2012

Present	Apologies	In Attendance
John Graham Andrew Leaver Mark Hedderwick Peter Masheter Calum Fraser Alisdair Stewart	Graeme Scott	Lorna Campbell

Item	Action
<p>1 Minutes of meeting of 24th September 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were proposed by Alisdair Stewart and seconded by Calum Fraser. 	
<p>2 Matters arising from the minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
<p>3 Approval of Annual Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Financial Statements for the year to 28th February 2012 had been prepared by Graeme Scott and examined by Alexander Graham. These had been circulated to the Board in advance The accounts were proposed by Andrew Leaver and seconded by Calum Fraser. The accounts were approved by the Board. 	
<p>4 Extension of NFLS Deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Leaver confirmed receipt of a letter from Bob McIntosh, Director, FCS extending the NFLS approval period until 30 June 2013. 	
<p>5 Scottish Land Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For some weeks contacts at HIE had been suggesting that the Scottish Land Fund may have to apply EU State Aid rules to any grant for the purchase of forestry by a community group. Andrew Leaver, Graeme Scott and Lorna Campbell met with Sandra Holmes and Su Cooper of the HIE Community Assets Team on 15th November and they confirmed this to be the case. The result is that an application to the SLF could only request a maximum of 20% of the purchase price, potentially £150k - £170k depending on valuation. This would leave in the region of £550k+ to find. The Board agreed that this made purchase through support from the SLF unviable. It was agreed that ACF should attempt to influence change to the SLF both by direct lobbying and through 	

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Community Land Scotland, the Land Reform Review Groups and any appropriately connected individuals.	Andrew Leaver
<p>6 Leasing Option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCS has issued new guidance on leasing by community groups. • Andrew Leaver and Lorna Campbell met with Bob Frost and Malcolm Wield from FCS on 30th November. • At its simplest level the new lease methodology is an improvement with a base rent for the land and a 'cut' of profit on timber sales as they take place. • In order to identify potential land rent values and also to forecast timber income it was proposed to work with Jon Hollingdale at Community Woodlands Association and to contract the District Valuer to provide some rent values based on the FCS methodology. Funding is available within the current support package from HIE / FCS / Council. It was agreed to take this approach. Lorna to contact Jon Hollingdale and Andrew to contact the DV. 	Lorna Campbell Andrew Leaver
<p>7 Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that a public meeting be held once there was a clear proposal to put to the community. Probably in early Spring 2013. 	
<p>8 AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	

Summary of Outstanding Actions		
Ref	Action	Person Responsible
20/5	Contact Lord Lovat to invite him to be a Forest Champion and figurehead for the 'Adopt a Forest' campaign.	Andrew Leaver
20/6	Contact Plexus to identify costs for enhancement to website to include video / graphic for 'Adopt a Forest' campaign.	Andrew Leaver
21/5	Progress planning for on-line auction.	Andrew Leaver
32/1	Attempt to influence change in the SLF by direct lobbying and through Community Land Scotland, the Land Reform Review Groups and any appropriately connected individuals.	Andrew Leaver
32/2	Contact Jon Hollingdale for support with evaluating new lease options	Lorna Campbell
32/3	Contract the DV to provide new estimates of rental values based on updated FCS methodology	Andrew Leaver

Chair		Date	