



Aigas Community Forest Board Meeting held in Kilmorack Hall on 20th October at 19.30.

Apologies: Mark Hedderwick.

David extended a warm welcome to newly appointed Board Members: Peter Smith and Ian Stewart.

Board Members Present: David Garvie (DG -Chair) Jo Young (JY - Minutes) John Graham (JG) Fin Denerly (FD) Bob Bull (BB) Ian Stewart (IS) Pete Smith (PS)

Forest Manager: Alasdair Martin (AM)

Ordinary Members Present: Phil Masheter (PM), Stephen Coterrill, Bob Heminway, Mary Graham, Alastair Ross, Phil Envis, Ron McLaughlin.

Associate Member: Stephen Miller.

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting 18th August. Approved by JG and seconded by NV.

Agenda Amendments - Hydro Fund to be added under Any Other Competent Business (A.O.C.B).

Matters Arising from Previous Mins: None.

Appointment of Office Bearers

Chairperson – David Garvie has agreed to continue in this role. Proposed by JG, seconded by JY.

Vice Chair - Jo Young . Proposed by DG, seconded by NV.

Treasurer - John Graham. Proposed by ?? , seconded by NV.

Secretary - This role remains vacant.

Forest Managers Report: previously circulated.

Extensive damage incurred by Storm Amy particularly at Moul Na Ceap - AM keen to consider further clear-fell to limit future damage and engage a contractor to assist with this

clear up.

The Forest Plan would require updating to accommodate this and was approved by The Board.

SSEN Overhead Line Project

In Person meeting on 23rd October.

SSEN Biodiversity Net Gain Planting

Still no conclusion to the application for An Drium.

AM concerned re the Area above Aigas Loch and feels a mechanized approach needs to be considered to deal with the broom and gorse growing on challenging terrain. ACF is due to receive the next £4000 maintenance payment which may be earmarked for this purpose. This area has also experienced pressure from high deer numbers and attack from the Hylobius Beetle on broadleaf plants.

Sub - Groups

Paths and Access: Have not met recently as such, but there have been some discussions around pedestrian access with SSEN during the construction phase of the OHL, so awaiting approval of these proposals.

There has been some work done on Rogie's Path.

Deer Management: No update.

Wood Sales: Previously Wood Fuel. The new sawmill (Woodlander) has arrived and has been constructed by staff and volunteers. This will increase the value of our timber by allowing us to offer other timber options.

Wildlife and Ecology: Have not met recently, but there are plans to clear debris from the burn above the Victorian Bridge.

Equipment Group: Report circulated pre- meeting. The Sawmill and its accessories arrived recently.

The Board agreed to investigate purchasing a new log trailer. There has also been interest expressed in the purchase of the Palax Log Processor by someone within the local area.

10th Anniversary Events: Last planned event for this year will be the Night Sky event on 31st October. Stalker Nick Richards has been made aware.
The Organizing group plans to meet and review events.

Financial Report: £48,000 in the current account. Investment Account now complete and plan to reinvest with Virgin Money at 4.25%.

Items of Expenditure: Sprayer to apply wood treatment and the hire of a digger for 1 week. Still outstanding – costs for electrical connection from the generator to the Office and General-Purpose room, and installation of stove and flue.

Any Other Competent Business: SSEN Hydro Fund Application.

Funding had been sought from this scheme to purchase and construct a Polycrub Classic (tunnel). ACF was not successful, and feedback indicated that ‘selection was made according to evidence of need and level of impact on the beneficiary area and priority was given to projects in a less secure financial position.’

Date, Time and Venue for the Next Meeting.

Wednesday 10th December at 19.30 in the Magnus Centre.

Andrew Lever reminded all Board Members that they are required to submit their ID to Companies House.

The meeting ended at 20.40.