

Board of Directors

Minutes

of meeting held in Aigas Golf Club Clubhouse
at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th October 2015

Present		Apologies	In Attendance
John Graham	Andrew Leaver	Anne Forsyth	Donnie Chisholm
Graeme Scott	Nick Ward		Russell Ross
David Garvie	Peter Masheter		John Lister-Kaye
Mark Hedderwick	Calum Fraser		
Peter Smith	Warwick Lister-Kaye		

Item	Action
The Chair noted that this meeting had been called specially to discuss deer management issues carried over from the meeting of 21 st September.	
1 Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Forsyth 	
2 Board Governance <p>a) Conflict of Interest</p> <p>Information was circulated in advance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for Charity Trustees (published by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) Conflicts of Interest: a guide for charity trustees (published by the Charity Commission, England) Duties of Trustees (3rd edition) (published by Turcan Connell) <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In line with the Turcan Connell advice in particular, the June 2014 decision on non-payment of Board members would be extended to include '<i>...nor should a trustee, as an individual, enter into any transaction with the charity</i>'. Where a Board member has a direct interest in the result of a Board vote they will be able to stay and discuss the issue with the Board but they are not able to participate in the vote. <p>It was agreed that 'Declaration of Conflict of Interest' should become a standing agenda item for all future Board meetings.</p> <p>b) Majority Decision Making</p> <p>The section of the Articles of Association dealing with majority decision making was circulated in advance. This notes that only formal Board members have a vote, votes are taken with a show of hands and in the event of a tie the Chair has the casting vote.</p>	

Item	Action
<p>3 Deer Management in Aigas Community Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A paper outlining the main issues attached to deer management in Aigas Community Forest was circulated in advance. This was discussed and the following agreed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ultimate goal of deer management activity in Aigas Forest is to reduce numbers to 5 per 100ha within 4 years 2. Surveys to estimate the population in Aigas Forest should be initiated as soon as possible. 3. Stalking should be increased as soon as possible to start to reduce numbers (it was not agreed at this stage who would do the stalking or how many deer should be removed). 	
<p>6 Proposals for Deer Management;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two alternative proposals were tabled and discussed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contracting with Highland Deer and Habitat Solutions 2. A proposal from Nick Ward (Board member) to manage the deer at no cost • Roddy MacAskill of HDHS attended the meeting briefly to outline his methodology and experience. • Nick Ward was present for the meeting and was also invited to outline his methodology and experience. • No agreement could be reached on either of the proposals tabled. • The 'greater Aigas' (Aigas Community Forest, Aigas Field Centre, Aigas Mains Farm) deer management partnership is important to long term successful deer management and so any stalker needs to be acceptable to all three parties. • At least two additional stalkers should be identified and proposals brought forward to the Board as soon as possible to allow deer reduction to start this year. 	DC

Summary of Outstanding Actions		
Ref	Action	Person Responsible
37/5	Bring forward a proposal for a woodfuel business to a future meeting	DC
37/6	Investigate options for developing branding and signage for the forest	AL
38/1	Provide a trustee induction session	GS
38/10	Circulate board members skills audit	AL
40/1	Identify what Trustee Liability Insurance covers and bring information to next meeting	DC/AL
40/2	Follow up with CKD Galbraith on mast lease renewal.	AL
40/7	Undertake further investigation of the Adopt a phone box opportunity	AL
41/2	Prepare application to The Woodland Trust when required	AL / DC
41/3	Map proposed paths and prepare a condition report on each.	DC
41/4	Arrange a meeting with the informal MTB group to discuss routes of tracks and formation of a club	DC
42/1	Arrange for an insurance expert to attend a future Board meeting.	DC
42/2	Proceed with the Community Broadband market survey based on HIE methodology.	DG
42/3	Undertake surveys of existing paths	PS/AF
42/4	Donnie to arrange a firewood cutting day	DC
43/1	Bring forward proposals from at least two further stalkers offering deer management services	DC