



AIGAS COMMUNITY FOREST

Coille Coimhearsnachd Aigeis

Scottish Charity: SCO41614

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday 4th February 2019 at 1900.

Present

Peter Smith PS
David Garvie DG
Greg Jackson GJ
Russell Ross RR
Phil Masheter PM
Neil Valentine NV
Andrew Leaver AL
John Graham JG
Mark Hedderwick MH
Chloe Denerley CD

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH
Madeleine Robinson MR

Apologies

None

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None noted

Minutes of Meeting of 3rd December 2018

These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance.
Proposed JG. Seconded NV. Approved.

Chairman's Business

PS suggested that a mechanism was needed to allow payments to Board members and their families. He referred particularly to the work carried out by RR and his son on the cabin. AL said this could be agreed by the Board and would not require a change to the articles of association. JG is to settle payment with RR.

It was agreed that ideally 2 written quotes should be obtained prior to work being done by Board members. MH recommended that these should be in the form of a bill of quantities.

Vice-Chairman's Business

PM had nothing to report.

Report from Forest Manager

Harvesting

HH reported that felling and extraction are complete. The timber that is still roadside will be moved when weather allows. Contractors signs have been removed.

HH is to seek agreement from the Forestry Commission for changes to the development plan. He now intends to manage the area of forest N of the Crask by low intensity thinning. He has discussed with Scottish Woodlands extracting through the old main road rather than using the existing forest road. He intends that this work would be done prior to deer fencing in this area. The importance of protecting the local ecology, minimising disruption to residents and community involvement was stressed. HH will put the work out to tender. HH aims to establish a thinning regime over the entire forest and avoid clear felling as much as possible. A wet area of Lodgepole Pine in the W of the forest needs to be clear felled and the wood will be extracted by Simon the horse logger. NV hoped that the P&A and W&E groups might subsequently develop this area.

Fencing

Fencing has started. The first phase along the side of the golf course will take 2-3 months.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

JG thanked RR and his son, NV and HH for all their hard work on the cabin. HH raised the possibility of mains electricity in the future. JG said that this would be very expensive and suggested resiting the generator in a separate shelter.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

AL commented that the wrong logo had been used on some of the signs. JG explained that the correct logo is not high enough definition to use. AL will contact the logo designer to try to get a higher definition version.

PS will arrange to walk Path 1 and email the Board with a time.

JG and MH have arrangements in hand to deal with the possibly unsafe rock above the start of Path 1.

PM has offered to improve the access to the lower level car park.

The Board agreed payment for a qualified external assessor to report on the MTB trails and to fund HH to attend a Forestry Commission course on assessing trails.

Deer Management

12 deer have been shot in the past year. Work is needed to improve access and make more and better deer lawns.

Woodfuel

There has been no meeting in the past 2 months.

Wildlife and Ecology

There has been no meeting in the past 2 months.

CD reported that survey work is ongoing. NV has provided larch offcuts for making bird boxes.

Financial Report

JG reported that there is in excess of £138,000 in the bank with more than £20,000 still to come in including VAT repayments.

Secretary's Report

MR had nothing to report.

AOCB

The Board discussed the possibility of buying a secondhand off-road small utility vehicle such as a Polaris and subsequently a trailer to use with it. A decision was postponed until the next meeting.

AL requested that a discussion on budgetary process and establishing a reserve fund be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

MR is to liaise with AL and John Buckingham about communicating with the membership.

The meeting closed at 2100

The next meeting will be held in The Magnus House on Monday 1st April 2019 at 1900.