



VAT. No. 310378531

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday 3rd June 2019 at 1900.

Present

Peter Smith PS
John Graham JG
Greg Jackson GJ
Mark Hedderwick MH
Russell Ross RR
Phil Masheter PM
David Garvie DG

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH
Madeleine Robinson MR
Graeme Scott GS
Jim Mann JM

Apologies

Chloe Denerley
Andrew Leaver
Neil Valentine

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared

Minutes of Meeting of 1st April 2019

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

Chairman's Business

Jim Mann gave a short presentation on the work that he is doing at Erchless including producing birch syrup, forest raised pork and developing specialised wood uses such as smoking chips and charcoals for the restaurant trade. He stressed the ecological benefits of forest grazing. It is an essential component of the nutrient cycle in a forest resulting in greatly improved tree growth rates. He described how pigs could be used to clear overgrown areas and even windblow. The Board showed a great deal of interest and will consider whether his methods could be useful in ACF. JM left after his presentation.

PS raised the question of the need for changes to the Articles of Association to aid continuity and flexibility. He referred to the response he had received from AL to his initial suggestions. PS will circulate amended proposals for consultation before the next Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman's Business

PM had nothing to report

Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager

HH reported that he had asked for 3 tenders for the Torr a'Bhealaidh felling but had only had one quote from Scottish Woodlands. The work will largely consist of thinning and is expected to start in late August. Felling is estimated to be completed in December with haulage continuing into 2020. A public meeting to inform local residents will be organised at the next Board meeting. MH asked that the importance of reinstatement of paths be stressed to Scottish Woodlands as it is a popular walking area. HH will establish protection areas around sensitive wildlife sites. The Board accepted the Scottish Woodlands quote.

Path work as part of the CWA LEADER trail project is due to start in August. 3-400m of the wet westerly part of path 1 will be upgraded.

HH presented revised felling and replanting maps. He continues to inform the Forestry Commission of changes to the forest plan.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

RR is waiting for more timber to complete the cabin.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

PM has greatly improved part of the lower section of path 1 and will continue to work on it.

The report from the MTB assessor has provided a baseline assessment. HH and NV will continue to monitor the safety of the MTB trails.

Deer Management

17 deer have been culled in the forest up to April 2019. This is significantly less than the previous year.

Work on the deer fence is expected to resume very soon.

Woodfuel

JG reported on modest but continuing firewood sales.

A wood processing day is to be arranged.

HH reminded the Board of restrictions on moving wood between May and September.

Bothy Group

Has not met yet. The need for forward planning was discussed briefly.

Wildlife and Ecology

Birdboxes will continue to be monitored.

A date will be arranged to install a squirrel box and construct squirrel feeders.

A preliminary survey of the lochan will be followed up with more detail to establish baseline data.

Wildflowers have been sown in disturbed areas of ground and germination is being monitored.

The twinflower project appears to be successful.

Financial Report

GS presented the draft accounts for the period ended 28th February 2019.

HH agreed to provide a 10yr. rolling forecast.

JG reported on the ongoing negotiations as to whether ACF should be rated as a sporting estate. Although this has no financial implications at present he feels it is important to establish the precedent as it could have consequences in the future.

Secretary's Report

A document prepared by AL suggesting a framework for communications with the ACF membership and local community was presented by MR and agreed by the Board to be appropriate. John Buckingham is moving away and DG agreed to join the communications group.

MR successfully applied to the Woodland Trust for 4 free community tree packs.

The 420 mixed trees will be delivered in November and it was agreed to arrange planting days for volunteers.

AOCB

No matters raised.

The meeting closed at 21.15

The next meeting will be held in The Magnus House on Monday 29th July 2019 at 1900.

The AGM will be held on the 7th October 2019

**Subsequent Meetings: Monday 2nd December
Monday 27th January**