



VAT. No. 310378531

Minutes of the Board Meeting held in The Magnus House, Aigas Field Centre on Monday 7th October 2019 at 19.25, following the AGM.

Present

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

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH
Bob Hemingway
Sir John Lister-Kaye JLK
Mary Graham
Jo Young
Pete Short
Stephen Cotterill

Apologies

Graeme Scott GS
Phil Masheter PM

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared

Appointment of Chairman

Peter Smith was re-appointed as chairman with the approval of the Board.

Appointment of Other Officers

PS reported that PM is happy to continue as Vice-chairman.

JG will continue as Treasurer.

AL will continue as Company Secretary.

MR will continue as Secretary to the Board.

Appointment of all the above officers was approved by the Board.

Minutes of Meeting of 29th July 2019

These minutes had been circulated to the Board in advance. The minutes were approved.

Chairman's Business

PS had nothing further to report.

Vice-Chairman's Business

No report from PM.

Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager

HH gave a summary of improvements in the forest over the past year. Much more light is reaching the forest floor which will allow it to recover over the next few years. The forest is now a much more inviting and attractive place.

Thinning in the Torr a'Bhealaidh area in the east of the forest started about 6 weeks ago and extraction should be finished by Christmas. The main paths will be re-instated in good condition. Signs are in place guiding cars to the lower car park while the contractors require access.

Fencing is progressing and will be completed once the felling contractors have finished.

The pigs will move to a new enclosure soon and will be rotated regularly. Their effects are being closely monitored and assessed.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Nothing raised.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

NV reported that the focus has been on Path 1 which is largely in good condition now. A bridge needs to be built over the burn. The map at the car park needs to be improved and more route markers may be necessary.

Deer Management

PS reported that the deer numbers are lower and the stalker continues to work.

Woodfuel

JG reported that 16 x cubic metre bags of firewood have been processed. A further processing day needs to be arranged.

Bothy Group

No meeting

Wildlife and Ecology

No meeting

Financial Report

JG presented a summary of the financial situation over the past year. Income from felling and mast rental has been good with in addition a welcome grant for path improvement from the CWA via the EU Leader programme. The forestry income has funded labour and pension costs, insurance, a variety of operating costs and fencing expenditure. Trees and seeds have been bought and planted and the store room has been built. The current bank balance stands at approximately £143,000 with further fencing costs outstanding.

AFC is now registered for VAT with HMRC and also for using the Making Tax Digital service. JG thanked Graeme Scott for the great deal of work he has done in achieving this and for the invaluable and much appreciated support that he has given to the Treasurer.

Secretary's Report

MR had nothing to report.

AOCB

PS thanked JLK for his continuing support and for the use of The Magnus House.

MH drew attention to the fact that the First Aid Certificates awarded at the initial ACF training course will expire on the 10th February 2020. JG said this matter was being addressed.

JLK raised concerns that he and RR share about the increasing disturbance to wildlife being caused by a variety of leisure activities on the river. Various options for managing this problem were discussed. PS suggested naming and shaming on social media but JG warned of the risks of publicity. It was felt that a combined effort from all interested parties would be most likely to succeed. A joint meeting of AFC, ACF, KCC and the local police wildlife officer was proposed prior to seeking the involvement of SSE. JLK offered to make The Magnus House available.

The meeting closed at 20.25

The next Board meeting will be held on the 2nd December 2019 in The Magnus House at 1900