



VAT. No. 310378531

Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in Kilmorack Hall on Monday 7th March 2022 at 1900.

Present

Peter Smith PS
John Graham JG
Madeleine Robinson MR
Graeme Scott GS
Hermione Jackson HJ
Russell Ross RR
Jo Young JY
Neil Valentine NV

In Attendance

Helge Hansen HH

Apologies

Mark Hedderwick MH
Chloe Denerley CD
Andrew Leaver AL
Bob Hemingway BH
Phil Masheter PM

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 7th February 2022

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

Chairman's Business

PS said that the Business Improvement Review group would meet soon and emphasised that everyone would be encouraged to contribute.

Vice-Chairman's Business

Nothing raised. PM not present.

Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager

HH presented maps of both the windblown areas and the phase 2 felling plan. This plan includes sections scheduled for clear fell and woodland removal within the next 5yrs. He has obtained costings from Scottish Woodlands for either clearing the windblow alone or combining that work with the scheduled phase 2 felling. HH will organise a walkover for Board members of the relevant areas before the next meeting. A decision on the choice of option was postponed.

Work is planned to restart in the eastern section next week. Further road closures will be required. Only 2-3ha remains to be felled but about half of that will need to be hand cut.

Some windblow damage to the fence in the N corner has been temporarily repaired.

HH is meeting the Woodland Officer from Forestry and Land Scotland to ensure that changes to the Felling Plan as a result of windblow are compliant.

Davy Reid has completed the fencing in the west part of the forest apart from installing 2 vehicle gates. He is working elsewhere now but hopefully will resume work in the east sector soon.

Sub-Group Reports

Paths and Access Group

Not met

Deer Management

Not met

Wood Fuel

HH has completed an on-line audit which confirms that we fulfil the criteria for inclusion on the BSL (Biomass Suppliers List) apart from the requirement for certification administered through Woodsure. JG said that it was proving impossible to get clarification on how the certification scheme will apply to ACF. He suggested taking no action at present.

Wildlife and Ecology

Not met. PS plans to monitor activity in the nest boxes and arrange for the squirrel box to be put up.

Composting Toilet

MR said that the composting toilet has been ordered and a delivery date is awaited. Plans are in hand for installation.

Equipment Group

The new winch is due in about 2 weeks. The old winch has been sold locally for £500 + VAT.

Business Improvement Review Group

Not met. PS will arrange a meeting.

Financial Report

GS presented a Receipts and Payment Summary for the y/e 28 February 2022. He will email these figures to all Board members. It is estimated that almost £100,000 is still due to come in from felling and £20-30,000 will be needed to complete the fencing.

Secretary's Report

The next meeting is planned for Monday 25th April at 1900 In Kilmorack Hall if it is available.

AOCB

NV suggested a charitable donation to help Ukraine. After some discussion it was agreed that ACF will make a donation of £500 to the Disasters Emergency Committee for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. Whether a further donation should be made will be discussed at the next meeting. HH proposed that a budget for charitable donations should be set annually. PS requested that the donation should be publicised.

NV would like to improve communication and possibly share resources with other community forests.

The meeting closed at 20.45