



VAT. No. 310378531

## **Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in Kilmorack Hall on Monday 25th April 2022 at 1900.**

### **Present**

Peter Smith PS  
John Graham JG  
Madeleine Robinson MR  
Mark Hedderwick MH  
Andrew Leaver AL  
Russell Ross RR  
Jo Young JY  
Neil Valentine NV  
Phil Masheter PM  
Bob Hemingway BH  
Chloe Denerley CD

### **In Attendance**

Helge Hansen HH

### **Apologies**

Hermione Jackson HJ  
Graeme Scott GS

### **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None declared

### **Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 7th March 2022**

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

### **Chairman's Business**

PS reminded the Board that he will stand down later this year and that a date needs to be fixed for the AGM.

### **Vice-Chairman's Business**

Nothing raised.

## **Report from Helge Hansen, Forest Manager**

The hand cutters have been clearing the strip above the main road for the past week. About 10 days of road closures will be required in May.

A second harvester will start work in the west part of the forest tidying windblow this week. The 1.5 hectares of woodland removal in the planned wetland area will be cleared at the same time. Public access will be restricted for about 4 weeks and signs are in place.

Further work is needed in the east sector to tidy up the track to the mast, improve access points and repair fence damage. Some digger work in addition to that provided by Scottish Woodlands will be necessary.

BH asked about the piles of brash still awaiting chipping and creating a potential fire risk. HH is trying to get this dealt with.

HH commented that there is still quite a lot of timber stacked in the forest as the market has slowed.

Planting in the east of the forest is scheduled for Spring 2023.

It is hoped to get the deer grid installed and the fencing completed, including some repair work at the boundary with JG's land, as soon as possible.

PM agreed to supervise work to deal with drainage issues at the Crask.

## **Sub-Group Reports**

### **Paths and Access Group**

Not met. BH reported that the people counter is recording about 60 visitors per week. This is probably an underestimate as it counts across the pedestrian gateway and may be bypassed if the vehicle gate is open.

Two quotes are awaited for the new low level path but have not been received yet.

PS asked for 3 quotes to be obtained. BH will try to get them.

### **Deer Management**

Not met. Deer numbers are still high and shooting is stopping as the hinds are in calf.

### **Wood Fuel**

JG reported that there is uncertainty about the future criteria for inclusion on the Biomass Suppliers List. ACF continues on the list until June.

### **Wildlife and Ecology**

Not met. CD said that a male osprey and a peregrine have been seen. NV reported seeing a goshawk 10 days previously from the track below the cabin.

### **Composting Toilet**

The toilet is now constructed but not yet functional. MR asked the Board to thank the volunteers for the hours they had put in to achieve this. Specific thanks were given to Dave Bloor for digger driving, Nick Ward for lending the cement mixer, Stuart Young for cement supervision and Alastair Duff for help with SEPA

registration. MH supplied a small digger and requested that a contribution be made to the Ukraine refugee fund in return for this. It was agreed that £200 would be donated through the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

PS suggested that Saturday volunteer days should be considered. HH agreed that this would be appropriate occasionally for specific tasks. NV suggested occasional Saturdays for making things.

### **Equipment Group**

NV said that a new area had been created for equipment storage at the quarry. PS said that the equipment needed to be kept under cover.

### **Business Improvement Review Group**

PS, JG, GS and HH have met. PS said that a detailed report will be presented to the Board in due course.

### **Financial Report**

JG said that the bank balance was £352,873. A considerable amount was expected from further wood sales.

About £20,000 is still to be paid to complete the fencing.

### **Secretary**

There was some discussion of the need to assess and monitor lone working in the forest.

The next meeting is planned for Monday 20th June at 1900 In Kilmorack Hall.

As the next meeting is not for 2months HH agreed to email a monthly update to the Board.

### **AOCB**

NV reported that the Beaulieu Men's Shed have done a super job of the picnic table and benches. They will visit the forest to assemble it and hopefully will work with ACF again in the future.

The meeting closed at 20.15