



Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in the Magnus House on 21st November 2022

The meeting started at 19.30.

Present

David Garvie DG

John Graham JG

Jo Young JY

Hansen HH

Neil Valentine NV

Stephen Cotterill SC

Chloe Denerley CD

Madeleine Robinson MR

Phil Masheter PM

Bob Hemingway BH

Andrew Leaver AL

Graeme Scott GS

Apologies

Mark Hedderwick MH

Hermione Jackson HJ

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

It was agreed that it was not necessary to include this item on future agendas.

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 19th September 2022.

Proposed JG. Seconded NV. Approved.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Nothing raised.

Agenda Amendments

None suggested.

Forest Manager Report

HH had circulated his report prior to the meeting. In summary:

The final phase of felling is underway and hopefully will be completed by the end of 2022 with the fencing finished in early 2023. The deer grid is in place and associated improvements to road drainage in hand.

16 red deer, 1 sika and 1roe have been culled recently in the forest. It was agreed that deer numbers need to be as low as possible to enable tree restocking.

The Highland Council Nature Restoration Fund project is complete and full grant payment has been received. HH showed drone footage of this area.

The lawyers are in the final stages of agreeing the biodiversity credits contract with SSEN. HH presented a draft operational budget for 2023. Various items were discussed in more detail. It was agreed that HH will modify the budget to run from 1.3.23 to cover the same period as the accounts.

New Business

- 1. Purchasing Authority.** The Business Improvement Review Group agreed to prepare a discussion document for the next Board meeting covering approval mechanisms, spending limits and establishing a reserve policy. AL will update the 10yr operational budget. The BIRG will also continue to work on procedures and policies.
- 2. IT.** DG's offer to set up Microsoft 365 for ACF use was accepted. This will improve communications and document storage.
- 3. Forest Vision.** JY will chair a meeting in the golf clubhouse on 6th December at 1900 to start a consultation process. She will report back to the Board.

Sub-group Reports

No reports had been received.

JG reported that the Gator had sold for £5,100. DG asked the Equipment Group to prepare a report on possible equipment purchases for the next meeting.

Financial Reports

GS presented the draft accounts for y/e 28th February 2022. Proposed JG. Seconded MR. Approved.

JG reported that the mast is due to be upgraded and the income from it will increase.

DG thanked GS, JG and AL for their work on the financial reports.

Items of Expenditure

No proposals made.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday the 30th January 2023 at 19.30 in the Magnus House at Aigas Field Centre.