



Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in the Crannog at Aigas Field Centre on 30th January 2023

The meeting started at 19.30.

Present

David Garvie DG

John Graham JG

Jo Young JY

Helge Hansen HH

Neil Valentine NV

Stephen Cotterill SC

Chloe Denerley CD

Madeleine Robinson MR

Phil Masheter PM

Bob Hemingway BH

Apologies

Graeme Scott GS

Hermione Jackson HJ

DG read out an email from Andrew Leaver stating that he is resigning from the Board with immediate effect. He is willing to continue as Company Secretary and the Board unanimously wished him to continue in this role.

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 21st November 2022.

Proposed JY. Seconded NV. Approved.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

These were dealt with under the subgroup headings..

Agenda Amendments

None suggested.

Forest Manager Report

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

There will be some road closures next week while roadside clearing is carried out by Simon Dakin.

As this is a Council responsibility it is hoped there will be some reimbursement of ACF costs.

PM agreed that an access track across Masheter land and used during felling could be maintained. 2 gates will be required.

HH explained the work required for reinstatement of paths in the eastern block. Some paths will be slightly widened to allow ATV access for forest work.

HH gave a brief introduction to the uses and benefits of SharePoint.

HH has modified the operational budget to run from 1.3.23 to cover the same period as the accounts.

Discussions are ongoing with Scottish Woodlands about removal of the large brush piles before the summer.

New Business

First Aid Course. This will run on 11th. February in Kilmorack Hall. It is fully subscribed.

Sub-group Reports

- Paths and Access. A report had been circulated. It was agreed that the sawmill building next to the car park should be fenced off and a dangerous building sign put up. The P&A group were asked to consider changes to the parking area.
- Deer Management. The stalker continues to work to reduce deer numbers.
- Wood Fuel. A report had been circulated. No comments were made.
- Wildlife and Ecology. Reports of 2 meetings had been circulated. The problem of Sitka regeneration will be discussed further.
- Business Improvement Group. Further work is required to finalise a report for the Board. This was requested for the next meeting.
- Equipment. The group consists of NV JG PM HH and MH. They will meet to decide on a group leader. The Board requested that they take a more proactive role in reviewing equipment, forward planning and training requirements.
- Forest Vision. Reports of 2 meetings had been circulated. The activities of other community woodlands are being explored.

Financial Reports

JG reported that the bank balance exceeds £456,000.

Items of Expenditure

JG will consult GS on the regulations relating to ACF making charitable donations.

The meeting closed at 21.05.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday the 27th March 2023 at 19.30 in The Crannog at Aigas Field Centre.