

Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in the Crannog at Aigas Field Centre on 27th March 2023.

Present

David Garvie DG
Jo Young JY
Phil Masheter PM
Bob Hemingway BH
Neil Valentine NV
Helge Hansen HH
Chloe Denerley CD
Stephen Cotterill SC

Apologies

Madeleine Robinson MR
John Graham JG
Graham Scott GS
Hermione Jackson HJ

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 30th January 2023.

Proposed NV. Seconded PM. Approved.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting.

- BIRG – report previously circulated. The Purchase Authorisation Policy will encourage us to focus on future budgets. This policy and The Reserves Policy were both approved unanimously.
- Charitable Donations - report from JG and GS.
In summary – an application to The ACF Fund should encompass the aims of ACF, be community based and proportionate. It was therefore agreed that £1000 be allocated annually – and available from now. The fund will be renewed or topped up each year rather than added too. The fund will not be advertised as such, and each request will be judged on its own merit. A donation may also be made in kind - eg of wood and a value should be attached to this.

Agenda Amendments

None raised.

Forest Managers Report – previously circulated by HH

Main point for discussion from this report was the estimated cost of road maintenance and track upgrade – it was unanimously agreed that this budget be increased to £20K - this would allow for some preparation along track 5 as per circulated map. Work on roads/tracks should start in May.
Paths & Access to meet asap to clarify routes.

New Business

SSE- HH and DG met with J Farquhar – consultant to SSE and tasked to engage with landowners possibly affected by the proposed new 400k overland line from Spittal to Beaulieu. ACF may be affected by Pylon or lines which could impact on the planting and management of recently felled area. Mixed views and thoughts re this proposal but it is more than probable that it will go ahead so ACF would plan to negotiate an income to mitigate the impact to the environment. This prompted a discussion with regard to the ethics of ACF receiving funding from SSE and will need to be discussed further in the future.

Sub Groups

- Paths and Access will meet on the 19/04 5pm at The Cabin
- Deer Management - 1 Sika and 7 Roes culled. Stalker experiencing access issues with windthrow.
- Wood Fuel have not met recently.
- Wildlife and Ecology – a working party will next meet on the 27th April. Report previously circulated.
- Equipment Group – meeting to be arranged. PM has agreed to steer this group.
- Forest Vision Group - meet 4-6 weekly. 5 Board Members recently visited Knoydart and will share thoughts and ideas at next meeting on 18/04.

Treasurers Report will be circulated with minutes.

In Summary - £497854.71 in the bank.

Still awaiting invoices for traffic management for felling and the last stage of fencing to be completed.
Income still outstanding from recent felling.

Items of Expenditure

- School of Forestry Trailer for the Massey Ferguson 165. A donation of £600 has been made for the trailer and The School of Forestry have agreed to deliver it. We are also hopeful of the loan of a Saw Bench.

A.O.C.B

Madeleine has intimated that she will be moving south at some point to be nearer family, this means that we shall require someone to undertake secretarial duties.

This position can be filled by a co opted or non board member. Suggestions will be most welcome.
The board would in fact be short of two members.

Date, Time and Venue for next Meeting

15/05 at 7.30pm possibly at The Cabin – to be confirmed.