



Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in the Forest Cabin in Aigas Community Forest on 15th May 2023

The meeting started at 19.05.

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

Graeme Scott GS

Mark Hedderwick MH

Apologies

Hermione Jackson HJ

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 27th March 2023.

Proposed JY. Seconded BH. Approved.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

MR will circulate the membership seeking new Board members and a replacement secretary. It was suggested that a similar message should be put on Facebook.

Agenda Amendments

SC raised the subject of investment of ACF capital currently earning no interest. GS proposed investing £350,000 for 1yr. It was agreed that the investment needed to be simple, safe and give good access. JG and GS will investigate the possibilities and email a proposal to the Board.

Forest Manager Report

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

All felling has finished. The final fencing is due to be completed very soon.

Stone is currently being processed to produce more than 2,000 tons. This will leave a residual supply for the future after current work is completed and at a much lower cost than buying it in.

Planned work on paths and tracks will be carried out over the next month. Warning signs will be

placed if work will affect MTB trails. It was agreed that a hardstanding area would be created near

the lochan for occasional additional parking. The turning area at the forest entrance will be improved.

HH is preparing the paperwork for the FSC audit.

New Business

None

Sub-group Reports

- Wildlife and Ecology. CD had circulated a report. Further seasonal visits by home educated and school groups are planned. The lochan survey was very encouraging and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to raise the water level slightly.
- Paths and Access. No report. BH has contacted Helen Stirling Maps about maps for the future information cabin.
- Deer Management. HH hopes that red deer will be eliminated as much as possible. PM will report to the next meeting on actions to achieve this.
- Wood Fuel. JG reported that sales are satisfactory.
- Business Improvement Group. Not met.
- Equipment Group. PM is formulating a long term plan of requirements as well as reviewing training needs and redundant equipment.
- Forest Vision. DG has created a mind map to aid the group. High level vision topics will be broken down into multiple lower level specific projects which can then be included in budgets. JY will arrange the next meeting.

Financial Reports

On behalf of the Board JG thanked GS for his work in Preparing the Receipts and Payments Summary for y/e 28.2.23 which had been circulated. Total timber sales are in excess of £500,000 which exceeds original estimates.

HH and GS will prepare an annual budget backdated to March 2023 and circulate it before the next meeting.

MH asked if HH's salary is reviewed annually and JG confirmed that it is.

Items of Expenditure

A charitable donation of £200 to the Highland Cross was agreed. JG will arrange this.

The meeting closed at 20.10.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday the 26th June 2023 at 19.00 in the Forest Cabin at Aigas Community Forest.

