



Minutes of the ACF Board Meeting held in the Forest Cabin in Aigas Community Forest on 26th June 2023 at 1900.

Present

David Garvie DG
John Graham JG
Jo Young JY
Helge Hansen HH
Neil Valentine NV
Stephen Cotterill SC
Fin Denerley FD
Madeleine Robinson MR
Phil Masheter PM
Bob Hemingway BH

Apologies

Graeme Scott GS
Mark Hedderwick MH

Minutes of Previous Board Meeting of 15th May 2023.

Proposed JY. Seconded NV. Approved.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

MR will circulate the membership giving notification of the AGM and also seeking new Board members and a replacement secretary. A similar message will be put on Facebook.

JG confirmed that £350,000 has been invested through the Bank of Scotland for 12 months at 3.2% which will earn £11,200 interest. A donation of £200 was made to HH as sponsorship for his participation in the Highland Cross. SC noted the need to quantify and record all forms of charitable donation made. It is hoped that GS will update the Board on regulations concerning charitable donations at the next Board meeting.

Preparation of an annual budget from March 2023 has been deferred. HH and GS need information from subgroup leaders on their budgetary aspirations as soon as possible.

Agenda Amendments

NV is planning assessments in various activities for the volunteers. He will discuss costs with the assessor. The Board agreed to fund assessments for Harry Evans, a student volunteer.

Forest Manager Report

The Forester's Report and an updated track and path map had been circulated.

The FSC audit went well and no problem with accreditation is expected.

HH anticipates that the completed path and track work will cost no more than 5% over the £20,000 budget. More than 500 tons of crushed stone will be left in the quarry for future use.

The remaining digger work to be done in the East block will be paid for by Scottish Woodlands.

It was agreed that signs requesting that dogs be kept on leads would be required where a path connecting the East and West blocks of ACF crosses Masheter land.

New Business

An Open Day will be held on the 9th September. BH has arranged for a chain saw carver to be there and create a sculpture for the forest at a cost of £300 - £500.

HH is exploring possible musicians.

The event will be publicised with the AGM notification, on Facebook, with roadside signs and with fliers in various local sites.

JY will source burgers and sausages.

A budget of £1,000 for the event was agreed.

Sub-group Reports

- Forest Vision. JY thanked DG and Cathryn Cotterill for all their help. A mind map, timeline and revised Vision document had been circulated on the day of the meeting. It was agreed that feedback from Board members should be given to JY by email within 2 weeks. Documents for community consultation will be publicised on social media, by local notices and available at the Open Day and AGM. Crask residents will receive a mailshot. The membership will be informed in the AGM notification. Feedback will be sought from a wide audience. The AGM followed by a Board meeting is planned provisionally for Wednesday the 27th September, dependent on Kilmorack Hall availability.
- Paths and Access. A report had been circulated. BH has obtained a quote of £750 from Helen Stirling maps. JG thought this was too expensive. BH and HH will create a basic map with path names to circulate to Board members who can feed back their comments by email within 3 weeks. Following this a decision will be made.
- Wildlife and Ecology. NV had circulated a report. Work is ongoing to slow the outflow of water from the lochan.
- Deer Management. PM had circulated a report.
- Wood Fuel. No report.
- Business Improvement Group. No report.
- Equipment Group. No report. Discussions are ongoing.

Financial Reports

JG reported that the current bank balance is more than £180,000 on top of the £350,000 investment.

Items of Expenditure

None

There was a discussion about the Crask Road. Responsibility for maintenance is shared by the users. PM has volunteered to do work on the road using ACF aggregate. DG asked for thanks to PM to be minuted.

The meeting closed at 20.43.

The next Board meeting will be held following on from the AGM. The date will be confirmed shortly.