

**Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland**  
**Minutes of the Directors Meeting held in the Aultbea Hall Upper Meeting Room**  
**On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Present** : John Rippin (chair), Tony Carpenter, Alan Turnbull, Jan Barclay, Ruth MacLeod

**Apologies received** : Peter Jarosz, Kevin Ginty, Paul Bolton, Nick Murray

The Chairman asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, this was proposed by Alan Turnbull and seconded by Tony Carpenter.

**Matters Arising:** Land Manager Option - next phase still to be looked at in detail, Andrew will arrange to plan route.

Fusion Marine Grant- John suggested that we acquire a plastic bench to use as a spare when others are being repaired and the balance spend as previously agreed on board-walk.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the report were given to all present, together with a copy of last year's balance sheet showing a healthy financial position in line with previous years.

It was agreed that some follow up of annual membership dues would be pursued both in the newsletter and if required by email.

The matter of putting some of the current Bank Account on longer term deposit to earn Interest was also discussed.

#### **Newsletter**

The newsletter has been sent out, and is all up to date.

#### **AGM**

It was agreed that we should stick to the formula as before.

#### **Firewood Permit**

All directors have a copy of this. It was agreed that we should limit the number of licenses to 10. Licences will be issued in two blocks Sept to Dec (first pilot run) and then Jan to April. The maximum period any licence will run for is 4 months. The charge will be £5 per month with an additional administration charge of £5 per permit issue to non members. It was agreed to proceed, treating the initial phase as a trial.

#### **Forest Plan**

Andrew reported that the Forestry Commission were now pushing us for completion, and he had asked his assistant to draw it up for us. An outline map of the detail was handed out and we can now apply for the required felling and re-stocking licences. We now effectively have a 10 year plan which we can - if required - alter if needs be. This will give us a long term plan without total commitment if situations change. Andrew asked us to consider the detail over the next week and then it will be submitted for approval.

The next phase is a scoping report for eventual submission to all concerned (SNH, FC, etc.)  
All this is subject to future funding.

Andrew also drew our attention to a disease that is spreading north that might affect our Lodge pole Pine stock. This could result in the loss of this resource. Tony suggested we consider planting Xmas trees as a cash crop and it was agreed that this was a very good idea, and should be added to the plan (annual planting and eventual annual cropping, detail to be discussed).

### **Mink**

After a discussion with *Scottish Mink Initiative*, Jan has suggested that she and Ruth should put out Mink trays and if required re-deploy traps. It was agreed that we should proceed with the trays but if we get a positive mink identification, due to the monitoring problem, we should discuss again before setting the traps.

### **Diary**

Jan suggested the idea of a diary to be kept of all the wood scavenging operations. It was agreed that as this required some thought, and further discussion would be left to the next meeting.

### **SNH**

Dr Lorna Brown will complete her survey for SNH in the next couple of months.

### **Working Parties**

Started again on Monday, 6 attended and a number of tasks have been listed for completion. John asked for agreement to buy 4 new chains and some clamps for the Logosol. He also suggested that more flexible times should apply in future.

### **Tree Sponsorship**

The Chairman felt that we should number the trees and attempt to send out certificates at the earliest opportunity. If things are left outstanding they could be forgotten and it might be more appropriate if we didn't cash the payment until the certificates were sent.  
Andrew will identify a number of trees in the Sponsor area that we are not sure about, and these can be added to the available list which includes Scots Pine and Oaks.

### **Christmas dinner**

We have decided to alter this to a pre-season Dinner, on a Saturday near Easter.  
 Sylvia will be asked to suggest two or three possible dates to be agreed. To be held at the Sheiling.

### **Any Other Business**

Jan listed further events, including Fungi walk 18<sup>th</sup> September.  
Bat walk will be postponed to May2014.  
Also Schools will be approached regarding a spring walk.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Aultbea Hall.

The next Directors meeting will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, in the Aultbea Hall.