

## **Minutes**

### **Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland – Directors Meeting**

Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 commencing 7.30pm

**Present: John Rippin, Kevin Ginty, Nick Murray, Jan Barclay, Tony Carpenter, John Bramham, Peter Jarosz, Peter Henderson, Geoff Dalzell, Aidan Bell**

**Apologies: there were no apologies**

#### **Approval of the last minutes**

The previous minutes were approved. Proposed: Jan Barclay Seconded: Peter Jarosz

#### **Matters Arising**

John Bramham insurance question – waiting to hear back from Zurich. PA cover limited to 500k, no pillion passengers allowed on ATV. JB liaise with PeterJ on premium.

High School arts and drama group – PeterJ contacted, and will arrange a meeting with the head.

#### **Matters to AOB**

Meeting with Cllr. Derek Macleod. Derek contacted John Rippin and came for a visit, had a walk around the wood, and discussed applying for funding for various possible purchases.

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

PJ reported that a scam had been received, attempting to set up a standing order. Bank of Scotland has refunded the £250. A few minor expenditure items outstanding. Discussions have taken place with Inverewe and an agreement written down for the hire of their chipper (or any other piece of equipment) on loan hire from/to them. The draft agreement was circulated for consideration and discussion. This is a generic document to cover various items, including the grass mower and log splitter, and potentially chipper and other items of equipment in the future. There was some discussion on availability of red diesel, and various local options mentioned. Referred to AOB: insurance and training considerations to be included.

#### **Companies House update**

KG reported that Companies House now require a list of Persons with Significant Control (their definition), who have more than 50% of the shares, or who can sack the rest of the directors. As LACW has no persons in that sort of position, KG has reported that we do not have any Persons with Significant Control. Should that position change in the future, we will have to notify Companies House.

#### **Major Works and Projections**

JR presented a detailed update on costs to date and potential future work. Work totaling £2,222.00 has been carried out so far.

The main items of expenditure in the coming period were identified:-

New container Delivered and installed £3180 including VAT plus special lock £70

Clearing saw 545RX replaces 545fx McGregors Inverness comes with brushcutter and cord head. Blade and Metal guard purchased separately are included £734 including vat

Training for clearing saw £700 - 3 operatives

Hire of wood chipper 2 weeks £500

Training wood chipper £600 - 2 operatives

New Chain saw for M7 Husqvarner 390XP £977.32

New firewood store enclosure £400

Total £7,161.32

Likely future income for the period:

Renewed memberships £1,300

Miscellaneous donations etc £1,000 ?

Firewood sales £1,500

Grants prior to 2018 £0

Grants 2018 paths £1,314

Highland Council Contingency Fund £ ?

Gift Aid £ ?

Total £5,114

Future works estimated expenditure:

The next move to the clear fell area	£600
Depending on materials on site the cost to reach the Army bridge and make a walking trail could be 20 days	£6,000
Additional materials required	£2,000
One day back on old ATV trail	£300
Contingency	£878
Total	£12,000

Total projected expenditure:

Future works estimate	£12,000
New equipment and training	£ 7,334
Total if we commit to everything	£19,334

Offset by:

Renewed membership	£1,300
Firewood sales (anticipated)	£1,500
Grant SRDP paths 2018	£1,314
Total Costs 2017-18	£15,220

Summary:

• Total Costs less incoming funds	£15,220
• Possible savings identified	£1,300
• New Total to consider	£13,920
• Profit from harvesting	£29,500
• Balance at Bank last meeting	£51,145

Following discussions, it was agreed to proceed along the above lines. The expenditure represents approximately half of the income received from clear felling, leaving the balance in reserve.

The meeting resolved to proceed, with the financial ceiling as above (£19,334). Proposed: Peter Jarosz Seconded: Nick Murray

**SRDP grant application** - AB explained reported the paths grant was approved. Annual support payment £1,314 pa 2018-2022inc. to be received. It is important to record maintenance, tree and footpath inspections, litter picking etc.

Restocking grant: as per original application 1100 per hectare Scots pine and 1600 per hectare broadleaves. Now changed to 1600 per hectare for both. Funding available, but replanting must be paid for planting up front, and then claimed back. Restocking is due to start in 2019.

Paths grant – work can only start after application submitted. All activities maintaining paths, benches, signs anything else to be recorded in log.

Extending path to clear fell area will improve access for replanting later.

**Laide Woodlanders** - AB gave an update, reporting variable levels of interest. Events are generating more engagement. AB suggested moving Woodlanders activities to be more focused on events going forward.

The Tree ID trail is just about ready. Fitzpatrick Woolmer quoting for supply of signage.

There was some discussion on possible involvement of schools in tree planting etc.

**Events for 2017** Jan Barclay reviewed the current events schedule. Jan reported generally high level of attendance and success, apart from one low attendance where it had been a particularly fine day.

Upcoming events: 5<sup>th</sup> Aug Forest Foray (Aidan Bell), 10<sup>th</sup> Aug Peter Cunningham pond dipping.

There was some discussion on the duck race, provisionally arranged for 2pm August 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Fiona McKenzie artist exhibition in Gairloch**

Jan Barclay reported the card offer – Fiona has offered to donate a painting of some aspect of the wood, and turn it in to a card(s) that could be printed and sold in aid of the wood. It was agreed to go ahead with this.

**Equipment**

JR reported the Stihl saw problems – still trying to fix.

**Newsletter**

Early issue for September will be sent out in August to encourage membership renewals. PJ to send KG up to date xl sheet of current members. Target to go out 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August, including subs reminder. The updated email and paper copies distribution list will be used in future, and lapsed members will not receive further copies.

**AOB**

Draft agreement with Inverewe, Aidan Bell to circulate for approval.

There was some discussion on training and insurance for use of equipment such as the chipper.

John Bramham reported re advertising that he had contacted a few local businesses regarding advertising on the wood noticeboard, positively received.

**Next meeting** The next Directors meeting will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, in the upper meeting room at the Aultbea Hall, commencing 7.30pm.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, from 7.30pm in the Aultbea Hall.

KG