

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

**Meeting held on Thursday 20th September 2018 commencing 7.33pm**

**Present:** John Rippin, Peter Jarosz, Harry Burn, Geoff Dalzell, Aidan Bell, John Bramham and Peter Henderson

**Apologies:** Kevin Ginty, Jan Barclay, Tony Carpenter and Nick Murray

In the absence of the secretary the chairman took the minutes there was no objection

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

The previous minutes were approved. Proposed: Peter Henderson Seconded: Aidan Bell .

### **Matters Arising**

JR confirmed advertising for the AGM had taken place and all members had been advised in accordance with article 4.1 memorandum and articles of association.

### **Matters to AOB**

Volunteer to take over as editor of the Newsletter – thoughts later.

### **Treasurer's Report**

PJ issued copies of the accounts to year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 ready for scrutiny at the AGM. The current balance is around £32K with only minor expenses still outstanding to be paid, leaving us in a position to complete the new trail and replanting next Spring still leaving a healthy reserve which can be built upon in the following years.

Calculating current membership is difficult because they are taken at any time in the year and renewals can trickle in over several months. To be able to calculate numbers at any time after our official membership year commences on September 1<sup>st</sup> any member who is one year overdue will still be counted as a member but if the membership lapses for a second year they will no longer be considered a member and records amended accordingly.

Rule : After 1<sup>st</sup> September 1 year lapsed still a member 2 year lapsed no longer a member.

The Treasurer was comfortable with the current level of spending on both equipment and consumables.

### **AGM**

JR confirmed the equipment required was in hand, PJ supplying the screen and projector stand and KG supplying the remaining hardware. Refreshments will be purchased and everyone was encouraged to make every effort to attend to be certain of making the required quorum of 10. The weather is not conducive to public attendance and AGM fatigue is a factor we should be aware of.

### **Directors Responsibilities**

JR issued a draft list of Directors and their responsibilities for consideration, any changes or issues should be addressed so that the list can be amended to be an accurate reflection of where everyone fits into the organisation and different areas of voluntary commitment.

Nick Murray will retire at the AGM and Nicks contribution, which over many years has been considerable and much appreciated was the director responsible for Health and Safety this role will now be taken on by John Bramham.

JR will nominate and KG will second a motion appoint HB as a director at the AGM.

### **Vandalism and the Hide**

Police have made contact and will be meeting with JR to take a statement. He will take up some other points raised at tonight's meeting with regard to security.

We have received a generous contribution of £100 from one of our members to help pay for any repairs and replacements and opening the hide to the public is now top of our agenda.

HB had investigated the price and possibility of using acrylic sheet of suitable thickness and pre-cut to size to replace the broken glass panels. GD will investigate another material for suitability and liaise with HB who will order as soon as possible.

### **Events programme**

Another successful events programme is drawing to a close and all went well to date apart from one disappointment, the duck race was called off, after considering the number of helpers available and carrying out a risk assessment, cancellation was our only option.

Katie Dixon Highland Ranger has expressed an interest in becoming more involved with Laide Wood events, we look forward to seeing her in the near future and hearing her suggestions, new events should extend the events programme and stimulate public interest.

### **New Path work to date**

We have now run into a problem with the access trail for ATV and equipment to the milling point and beyond. Heavy rain has made this trail inaccessible and is leading to damage of equipment, loss of time and greater risk of injury. We have decided to abandon this trail for the moment and try to get the ATV registered for agricultural use and limited road use in daylight hours. This would solve the problem and in the mean time we will have to work from the North car park and ferry materials using private cars and trailers back and fore. JR to check with DVLA and PJ will look into insurance.

The first bridge is now complete apart from additional safety rails and type 1 surfacing on one ramp. We will attempt to start the second bridge from the Hide end and continue milling timber but as a priority we need to carry out housekeeping work around the wood, this will mean an unavoidable delay in resuming work on bridges.

The completed bridge should now act as our bench mark for all future bridges and repairs. HB will assume duties for bridge plans, inspection and co-ordinate repairs

### **Firewood Store and Log splitter**

The roofing on the fire wood store has now been completed apart from the flashings which will have to be carried out in dry weather.

We have taken delivery of the log splitter and should commence firewood production on Tuesday 25th

### **First Aid Course – Wood Fuel Course Aigas Field Centre**

Two regular volunteers successfully attended a Forestry first aid course and we have two places reserved on the wood fuel workshop on October 1<sup>st</sup> HB and JR already registered with a possibility of more places if there is further interest.

HB will take over responsibility for First Aid equipment.

### **Facebook**

JBm and PH reported over 300 followers on the facebook page and plan to place an article encouraging anyone interested to take up membership, referring them to the website for the three membership related forms. PJ will contact KG to have a line for date insertion to be added to the form this will help track subscription due dates.

### **Tree Identification trail**

We intend milling the timber required for the new Tree I. D. signs and producing the stands required, once that is achieved AB can place them out in appropriate positions around the trail. The broken information boards should be repaired at the same time giving us a fresh and interesting trail to follow.

### **Replanting compartment 4**

Replanting is due to take place in Spring of 2019 and as JR will be absent for a considerable time over this period AB will now take responsibility and KG has agreed to assist him. AB will meet with the Forestry Commission Agent to put forward our proposals for approval.

Trees fertilizer and vole guards will have to be ordered and a suitable delivery date agreed, the firewood store which by Spring should be clear, will be a good place for storage.

Mounding for over 14000 trees carried out, Murdo MacRae to be approached for mounding costs and method to be used.

Planter to be contacted and date for planting to commence agreed, PJ has details of local planter prepared to carry out the work.

### **Funding Opportunities**

PJ has identified a possible opportunity The Scottish Landfill Community Fund in conjunction with WREN, he is preparing an application to cover the link up trail from the Milling point on the new trail compartment 4 to the existing main trail at the Hide. This will go over the now waterlogged area which is causing the problems for ATV access. JBm suggested we should consider the higher ground immediately to the side of the route we normally take. This could be the answer and the existing waterlogged route would act as a large surface drain for the new trail, however everyone agreed it would be an expensive operation requiring a substantial quantity of material brought in.

JR suggested we might approach the GWC for some funding, being a local well supported charity we should qualify. PJ to look into it.

### **Fiona MacKenzie Artwork**

PJ produced the cards now printed and ready for sale, our first selling platform will be Facebook and they will be priced around £2.00 for quality card and envelope sealed in film. All profits going to woodland development.

### **Any other Business**

KG due to other serious editorial commitments would like someone to take over as editor of our news letter, as no one was immediately prepared to take on the challenge the matter was deferred to allow people time to give it due consideration.

### **Next meeting**

The next Directors meeting will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November in the lower kitchen room commencing 1930.

### **The Meeting Closed at 9.40pm**

JR