

## **Minutes of the Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland – Directors’ Meeting**

**Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 commencing 7.30pm, in the portacabin**

**Present:** John Rippin, Kevin Ginty, Jan Barclay, Harry Burn, Tony Carpenter, Geoff Dalzell, Peter Henderson, Peter Jarosz, Aidan Bell, John Bramham, Chloe Hall

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

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

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

### **Matters arising**

There were two matters arising:      PJ - Gift Aid claim – which is still in progress  
AB - SRDP claim – claim submitted, and should be paid next year. Planting claim for the new trees included.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

£19,329 currently in our bank account. Annual accounts have been sent to the accountant for preparation. £3,500 was raised last year from firewood sales.

### **Membership**

PJ reported several new subscriptions, and also a number of drop-outs. £534 so far received in subs and donations, with several more to come, giving a projected total £1,034 which is slightly up on last year.

### **Memorandum and Articles of Association.**

JR reviewed the M&AAs. The option of a proxy vote has to be offered to all members living in the area, for their use if desired. The structure of subcommittees handling specific tasks is also defined, as required by the OSCR guidelines.

### **Completion of new trail**

JR reported that five contractors locally have been invited to tender for the top dressing of the new trail. One contractor has replied so far. Site visit arranged for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.

### **Fencing, bridge and deer**

Fencing has been dealt with. All of the known problem areas with the deer fence have now been addressed, and the deer fence is now complete. There are a number of deer in the wood. The new bridge, leading up to the access point on the north fence (not on the walking trails) has been completed. The working parties this year have carried out a huge amount of work on the bridges and trails.

### **New Fungi Panel**

John Hedger is putting together the content for the new Fungi panel. Paul Cranner has volunteered to prepare the artwork, and Fitzpatrick-Woolmer have quoted £210 + VAT for the fabrication. 594 x 420mm Aluminium One

### **Funding Applications Sub committee**

The Fungi panel and oak marker posts comes to £1,470 including the panel fabrication, and funding for this is being sought from Highland Council. Previous applications to Highland Council have been successful. If we’re not successful then the small grants National Lottery scheme can be approached. We can also consider approaching the Scottish Forestry Community Fund 2019-20 which offers up to £1,000 small grants.

Peter Jarosz, Kevin Ginty, John Bramham are looking into funding options. There was some discussion on the Prince’s Trust Countryside Fund, which should be opening again next year. They will convene a meeting before the next directors’ meeting, target early November.

### **Events**

Jan Barclay reported that remaining event for this year is the fungal foray. The events this year have been a success, apart from the butterflies and moths day which was poorly attended due to inclement weather. Fiona Mackenzie is planning more educational events for next year. There was some discussion on bird boxes and bat boxes, and siting them at suitable heights.

### **Firewood Sales**

This year's firewood sale is well prepared. Sales will begin in the first week of October, following the same email invitation process as last year.

### **AGM and Newsletter**

The AGM will be in the meeting room at the Loch Ewe Community Church, behind the original church building. The AGM will be based on our financial year, and the powerpoint slideshow will be based on the year to September. Refreshments will be provided, by Aileen, Sylvie and Chloe.

Resolutions:-

1. Reappointment of Tony Carpenter and Aidan Bell, proposed PJ, seconded PH
2. Reinstatement of office bearers of JR, KG, PJ proposed JohnB, seconded JanB
3. Accounts presented for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. Proposed GeoffD seconded Harry B

Chloe reported the newsletter was going well. Any content stories or photos to be sent to Chloe for future inclusion.

### **Any Other Business**

There were a number of sales of a new booklet about Gruinard Island, the proceeds of which are being donated to the Wood. Some discussion on possible systems for raising alarm if someone has an accident in the Wood, out of range of mobile phones. There was also discussion on the formulation of a list of suitable projects as targets for the coming year.

**Next meeting** will be the AGM and will take place on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> September in the meeting room of the Loch Ewe Community Church (the Free Church) commencing 7.30pm directors to be available at the venue from 7.00 pm

Next directors' meeting scheduled for: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in the portakabin.

21:00 KG

