

## **Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland**

Directors Meeting Held at 9 Tigh-na-Filine on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010

The meeting scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November having been cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

### **The Minutes**

#### **Present**

John Rippin (chair), Peter Jarosz (treasurer), Nick Murray, Tony Carpenter,

#### **Apologies**

Kevin Ginty, Alan Turnbull, Andrew, Jackman and Janet Barclay

Or quorum of 3 for a directors meeting is required and the meeting proceeded at 3pm

#### **Approval of the last minute**

Proposed Tony Carpenter

Seconded Nick Murray

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

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

PJ gave an update on our financial position which had not changed much since the last meeting. A number of expenses were about to be paid including our insurance but the cash in current account would more than cover this. We were still waiting for the SRDP Access improvement grant to be paid and AJ had already chased this up. As soon as we receive this money we will be in a position to consider improvement work on both trails to the hides. £90 had come in from the sale of calendars and Christmas bells which once again had been donated and we had received a generous donation of £300 from one of our members which had boosted our current account. Money on deposit at Clydesdale remained the same which had been increased by one years interest at over 3%.

#### **Health and Safety**

NM, our Health and Safety Officer, presented a comprehensive H and S Policy which covered all scenarios and risks involved in forestry work. Many hours had gone into the preparation of this policy document which requires the upkeep of certain records all of which are in place and will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. NM asked that the assistance he had received from AJ be put on record.

As well as the normal risk assessments etc., priorities are to be given to First aid courses, Fire safety for the containers, Warning signs when work is in progress and the maintenance of records.

Nick also volunteered, having set up the H and S policy, to remain as H and S Officer for the first six months January to June inclusive, but he is keen to see this responsibility move around the directors giving everyone the opportunity to get to grips with the new system.

The chair thanked NM for the hard work he had put in over the last few months in putting together this much needed and thorough document.

#### **Priority Tasks**

The Hide was officially opened on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November by Nicola Talloch from SNH with a small group of onlookers leaving just two remaining tasks on our agenda: The roof between the containers the materials - for which have arrived and are stored in the containers - and the Lord lieutenants' plaque. Both tasks should be completed in three days once the weather allows, and the application to Leader for grant aid for the roofing will be made on the next round.

### **Highland Leader Funds for the building**

Having missed the October deadline this is now work in hand which should give us a better opportunity to make a confident bid for funds once we have prepared our application and offered it to Liz Whiteford, who will give us some guidance through the process.

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter is now due the leader article will be the hide and it will go out ASAP. Any articles to JR asap.

### **Nature Trail**

A copy of JB's detailed up date report was handed out which covered all the work Jan is involved with, in her capacity as events co-ordinator including water-lilies art competition, Festival week 2011, programme for Laide Wood 2011 and the Nature Trail project. Jan seemed to have all these things in hand and running smoothly. She was liaising closely with KG reference the boards for the nature trail and fine tuning some of the photographs. The type of Interpretive boards by SR Webservices Ltd and lecterns by Ken Williamson have all been agreed. A printout of the interpretive board layout was passed around and met with approval from all.

### **Calendars**

JR reported that sales had been slow and we may have a surplus of calendars this year which would be difficult to sell locally. It was suggested we might offer them to a charity shop for sale or pass the surplus on to the primary schools for cutting up as artwork projects. This is to be investigated.

JR suggested we may have to look at another format for the 2012 calendar as the format we were using seemed to be very popular with other producers and therefore met with a lot of competition.

JB had previously suggested that future artwork winning entries might be incorporated in the calendar all agreed this was a good idea adding an extra competitive dimension to the competition, but the rules of the photo competition would have to be changed and it therefore couldn't be done until the calendar for 2013 went to print.

### **Directors evening 10<sup>th</sup> December**

JR would like to put on record our thanks to Sylvia who arranged the evening out, our first informal get together which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

This evening was funded by the individual directors and not financed through Laide Wood funds.

### **Any other Business**

A CWA meeting at Abriachan for the social enterprise employability networking group had been cancelled due to bad weather and will be re-scheduled for the new year.

Once funds are available and the weather suitable we will ask Murdo Bull for a site meeting and quote for path upgrade to the Hide. AJ and JR will attend this meeting.

Willow management: From AJ - We must attempt to find a way of managing the willow which is now coming to a suitable height for coppicing. Volunteers who would be prepared to take on the management and share any profit has been suggested. Cutting slips for planting and willow work was another suggestion, if workshops could be organised. Thinking caps on.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.15pm

The next directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup> weather dependent, venue to be confirmed nearer the date.