

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland – Directors' Meeting

13th October 2011

Present John Rippin. Tony Carpenter. Nick Murray
Janet Barclay. Peter Jarosz.
Apologies Kevin Ginty. Alan Turnbull, Andrew Jackman
In attendance Jane Rowe and Ruth MacLeod

Approval of the last minutes:-

Proposer Tony Carpenter

Seconder Peter Jarosz

The minutes were approved with amendments.

Matters Arising

PJ informed us that he had not yet opened the account with Scottish Widows but would do so within the next few weeks.

Minutes

JR stated in the absence of Alan Turnbull he was prepared to take the minutes

Treasurer's Report

PJ reported that we had already received a number of membership renewals and it was following a similar pattern to previous years he expected further renewals and new memberships to trickle in over the next few weeks. He would also prepare our next gift aid application and apply once the dust had settled on memberships etc.

The accounts for year 2010 2011 had been completed as far as he could go and he was concerned that we should avoid the situation we experienced last year when the OSCR return was made at the very last minute. He will contact Graham Banks and if Graham was unable to complete within a certain time he would switch our business to another accountant in which case there would be a charge. This was approved unanimously.

Willow

Martin and Jane Rowe continue to carry out investigations into the various uses our willow could be put to and are currently working out a programme for processing willow to be used next year, Jane gave an interesting update on what had been achieved so far.

Martin had requested agreement (in principle) for the funding of a course, the idea was to give Martin as project leader hands on experience in working with willow and if possible holding the course locally we could throw it open to any interested parties - this was approved. Martin would report back with costings and venue possibilities.

A second request for funding to cover the building of a willow screen at the hide was also approved.

Local Mink Initiative

JR reported that the trapping project had been set up well with SOP's in place covering every aspect of trapping, releasing and humane dispatch if necessary.

So far nothing had been caught and information from Estates close by would indicate there was little activity at the present time with mink only being caught close to the foreshore.

The traps in their original position had now been sprung and left in situ they will be moved once more to a new position and if no results after two weeks lifted until next Spring.

Winter Programmes

JR – As we are now facing a shorter window of daylight the regular Tuesday evening sessions would cease and we would commence a regular Monday afternoon and (if necessary) early evening session which would begin Monday 17th October. Open to anyone to come along and join in. Obviously these sessions are very much weather dependent.

Equipment service and replacement

JR and NM – The ATV will be due a service shortly and 1 chainsaw is causing problems and is unreliable. A request was made that we approve funds to carry out routine maintenance as required which would be limited to £250 per annum and replacement of existing chainsaw equipment if necessary.

Prior approval from the board should be sort should annual maintenance exceed the limit.

This was approved with the following caveat.

Replacement of expensive equipment such as chainsaws would always require specific approval.

NM said he would look into the costing of chainsaws and search around for the best deal and he would also be willing (with permission) to use TC's trailer to take the ATV to the garage for servicing and return it to the wood once completed. This would remove an additional uplift and return charge from the garage. It was agreed Forbes Garage should carry out any servicing on the ATV.

Insurance

The general opinion is the good value of the insurance package we obtained from BTCV on our first year had not fed through to year two with additional charges being made at every turn. Their insistence that chainsaw operatives attend a refresher course every three years was considered unnecessary as this was a recommendation from Hand S not a requirement and our own in house training gives an annual refresher course for any infrequent users

PJ – Would look into other insurance possibilities.

Survey Monkey

The survey had been very successful with an impressive return of forms mostly from our members. Only two forms in dissent from over fifty returns.

Full analysis will be made and the building design and content will be driven by the results.

It was also mentioned at this meeting Village SOS and Comic Relief may be worth considering as possible funding sources.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Next Meeting

Due to take place Aultbea Hall 7.30 pm Thursday 24th November 2011.