

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland
Minutes of the Directors Meeting held in the Aultbea Hall Upper Meeting Room
On 28th November 2013

Present : John Rippin (chair), Peter Jarosz, Andrew Jackman, Tony Carpenter, Alan Turnbull, Paul Bolton

Apologies received : Kevin Ginty, Janet Barclay

The Chairman informed us that Nick Murray had been admitted to hospital the night before and sent our best wishes for his speedy recovery.

Approval of the last minutes

The minutes were approved - proposed by Tony Carpenter, seconded by Alan Turnbull

Matters Arising: The Chairman reported on the fusion Marine grant, proposing the purchase of board walk beams, some rails and a bench.

John also asked that it be recorded that we should discuss the mink project at the next meeting in January, having by then obtained a report from Ruth. Peter Cunningham will be asked to supply rafts for footprint identification.

Peter advised us that his investigation of possible interest rate improvement on bank deposit had not found any worthwhile alternatives.

We are waiting for a special flora and fauna report from Dr Lorna Brown who will also place additional bat boxes as part of the proposed work.

Treasurer's Report

There were four new members, and membership income totals £555.00 so far.

It was decided to follow up those members who had not as yet paid for this year.

Due to the problem obtaining accounts on time last year it was agreed that for the year 2012-13, Sandy Nairn of SJN Accountants be appointed as Auditor.

Newsletter

The December issue is now due for any copy. Please submit to Kevin.

AGM

John reported on what was considered a good attendance and discussion centred on how we could make the next one more interesting for members. It was agreed that we should include video, power point presentation and photo displays. Also to advertise this in the Gairloch & District Times in order to try to recruit new members.

Forest Plan

Andrew had the inspection (for the LMO scheme with its annual grant) yesterday, which happily coincided with the Primary school run.

This has duly been signed off and will be paid in January.

John brought up the moving of the Film set and Peter was asked to order further supply of Dust.

Andrew also brought us up to date relating to the Forest Plan. We have had replies from SEPA

approving the draft and also the Forestry Commission. The plan should be drawn up in full after

Christmas for consultation. Peter Cunningham will be asked to include a habitat restoration project

for inclusion. Andrew has negotiated that the grant for this work extends for a further year.

Firewood Initiative

As so far only three takers, it was agreed to place an advert in the Gairloch & District Times to see if we can get further uptake.

Mink

After a discussion with *Scottish Mink Initiative*, Jan has suggested that she and Ruth should put out Mink trays and if required re-deploy traps. It was agreed that we should proceed with the trays but if we get a positive mink identification, due to the monitoring problem, we should discuss again before setting the traps.

SNH

Nothing new to report.

Working Parties

John reported good progress on preparing the Waterfall path with everyone enjoying the work. The Primary School Run was very successful, especially in timing as described above.

Tree Sponsorship

After getting all outstanding certificate printing (and posting out) up to date earlier in the week, Peter reported the receipt of one new tree sponsorship in the post that morning.

Any Other Business

Peter has found a new possible grant source, The Landscape Partnership. They offer grants between £100,00 and £3Million, which require us to fund 5% (which could possibly include our time or overhead costs.) It was agreed to proceed with initial application.

The future of Bat walks was asked about and Paul said that we should concentrate on further introduction of boxes and observe the results before considering further action.

Next Meeting

The next Directors meeting will take place on Thursday 30th January 2014, in the Aultbea Hall.