

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland  
Directors Meeting

Held in the Aultbea Community Hall, Upper Meeting Room on Thursday 29th July 7.30pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Rippin JR (Chair), Peter Jarosz PJ, Tony Carpenter TC, Nick Murray NM, Paul Bolton PB, Janet Barclay JB.

Also in attendance Aiden Bell AB.

APOLOGIES: Alan Turnbull AT, Kevin Ginty KG.

In the absence of AT the Chairman offered to take notes and record the meeting, this was agreed. Paul Bolton introduced Aiden Bell as his relief when Paul moves on to pastures new. Aiden will also step into Paul's role within our own organisation.

APPROVAL OF THE LAST MINUTES

Proposed: Peter Jarosz Seconded: Tony Carpenter

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Munro Harvesting:

JR had met on site with the representative of Munro Harvesting and was impressed with the firm's work ethic. It was stated by their rep. Mathew Thompson that we should at least break even on the proposed clear felling but it would be wise to delay the operation until the price of timber improved. He saw no problem with the task and said they are used to much more difficult terrain. As we are proposing the work to take place in Autumn 2016 or Spring 2017 the delay for a better price shouldn't pose any problem. Another visit would be scheduled for a later date.

Lochbroom Wood Fuels:

JR had spoken with LWF. They do not carry out harvesting and therefore will not be considered. They are keen to keep a working relationship with us and are interested in visiting Laide Wood with a youth group for forestry experience. Lodgepole pine removal was suggested and could be a possibility.

Scottish Woodlands:

Had not yet been contacted but past experience had thrown up a few concerns.

Chain Saw Parts:

JR had ordered the parts and they would be delivered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August and would be available for collection from the butchers shop any time from that date.

Deer Control:

PB had spoken to David MacLean who had carried out deer control for us previously, David had investigated and found there was no obvious damage to trees from the deer and as we are in closed season could not provide the information required to apply to SNH for an out of season licence. The position will be monitored.

Paths for All application for grant:

PJ had applied and heard nothing from PFA but was still optimistic. If granted the funds would be used to purchase materials for path improvements and repair.

#### MATTERS TO AOB:

JB Mink and Museum as a charity seems to be getting money from firms like Amazon? PJ interceded saying this has been going on for quite some time and they are not the only people doing it would appear if you provide a link on your website and the vendor is contacted using that link you receive a small commission which can mount up quite quickly. We will give the problem to KG who will report back. No further discussion required at AOB just mink on the agenda.

#### TREASURERS REPORT:

PJ produced a copy of the latest accounts which he hoped to have signed off by the accountant in time for the AGM. We have in the bank £22671.00 which is down since the last meeting due to the purchase of the power barrow (the Muck Truck). However, we are coming up to another round of annual subscriptions which should produce some disposable money and we also have a further potential income from the sale of "Portrait of a Small Community of up to £500.

#### FOREST PLAN

Most matters to do with the forest plan had been covered in matters arising. PB was asked if there was anything that we should be considering apart from that already discussed. We have to decide what we need to apply for under SRDP, improving public access which is a payment per Hectare whilst the paths are maintained and monitored for safety. This includes a buffer either side of the footpath of 25metres when calculating the total area. There is a low impact silviculture system payment as well. PB will get together with AB and look into items we can claim for which we already carry out as a matter of routine. PB will change the Forestry Commission nominated agent from himself to Aiden which he should be able to do on the website.

JR : Lodgepole pine self seeders was a matter of concern and at what point would we require a felling licence to remove them?. AB suggested that it would be surprising if we got anywhere near the 5 cubic metres which would require a licence to fell so although not a concern from that point of view they would still need thinning as soon as possible and a strimmer with clear saw attachment would be the answer. NTS have one and AB has the required ticket and will set aside a day later in the year when he could come over and help possibly including the thistle camp. Fell to waste seems to be the answer with the quantities we have to deal with.

#### EVENTS

JB reported that the events programme had gone well a lot of people turning up PB had carried out events with the school and they were very well received money raised was down due mainly to the Primrose Walk not being run and in the end we were one event short. It was decided to try to arrange an additional event at the same time as offering wood for sale at the end of October this could be a combined event with Willow work and a green wood workshop or exhibition of tools and products. JB would look into it. The chairman thanked JB for her sterling efforts once again in producing an interesting events programme and taking care of all the other incidentals attached to making her programme advertised and well supported.

Lochbroom Woodfuels youth initiative rep. had expressed an interest in bringing along a group introducing forestry work to volunteers. JR suggested that lodgepole tree thinning might be a good place to start and she seemed very keen.

## AGM

Dates fixed for agenda AGM 17<sup>th</sup> and meeting to follow at 24<sup>th</sup>, Tony may be not be available depending on his recovery from planned surgery and put in apologies in anticipation of his absence. KG will prepare a photo timeline for the year n the form of a Power point presentation this will be delivered as last year as part of the chairman's brief to the meeting and PJ will provide a Screen and a stand

## ATV

The procedure for registering the ATV for on road use (short distance) was discussed and AB agreed to look into all possibilities in particular license and insurance requirements.

## DOG POOH

Adrian Hollister passed over a £352 donation, proceeds from the sale of his photographic booklet "Portrait of a Small Community" this has come as a random gift of cash and there may be more to follow as further books are sold. JR suggested with backing from other members he had spoken to that we put the donation towards the purchase of two dog bag dispensers one to be sited at each end of the main circular route and ten boxes of bio-degradable bags. Two types were discussed and pamphlets handed out giving pictures and details. It was hoped that as well as making it easier for the volunteers emptying the pooh bag and putting out the current bags it would be an incentive to those people who still do not pick up after their dogs to do so. There could be a small notice in the area of both dispensers asking for a contribution from the dog owners to the purchase of the bags.

It was agreed we would purchase two dispensers coloured green which seemed to be the colour most favoured by those present, and a quantity of bags which to get the volume discount would place us over the £352 but was well worth doing.

PB recommended colour marking the faeces with bio degradable fluorescent spray the colour could be changed daily to show regular walkers how much of a problem there really is.

A Notice in the Gairloch and District Times informing people these dispensers are now in use and appealing to those who have done so in the past to pick up after their dogs and our grateful thanks to those that already do which is the vast majority.

PJ agreed to deal with the purchase.

## WORKING PARTIES

Having not had to deal with any emergency incidents during the summer break we will re-commence working parties on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October after the next two meetings unless something comes up between now and then that needs our attention in which case JR will e-mail volunteers asking for assistance. JR asked to be noted that both himself and TC have surgery coming up so this may impact on dates.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MINK: After a discussion about the possibility of mink in the wood and the lack of results from the tracks raft floating at the Army Bridge it was decided to re-position the raft to see if we get any tracks which would convince us to once again put traps out at strategic points in the wood. At this point we have no positive indication that there was mink in the wood but they have been caught locally and it was agreed we should be alert to the problem

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

#### NEXT MEETING

Will be the AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> September commencing 7.30pm - all Directors to be there at 7.00pm

The next directors meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, commencing 7.30pm. Both meetings to take place in the Upper Meeting Room of the Aultbea Hall.