

## **Minutes**

### **Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland – Directors Meeting**

Meeting held at 9 Tigh na Filine, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 commencing 7.30pm

**Present: John Rippin, Kevin Ginty, Jan Barclay, Aidan Bell, Peter Jarosz, Nick Murray (Skype), Tony Carpenter, Alan Turnbull**

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

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

The minutes were approved with some changes (action KG). Proposed: Nick Murray, Seconded: Peter Jarosz

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Peter reported little significant change, with one new membership application. We are due to check on email address updates for members.

#### **Latest Clear Felling – Autumn 2016**

The estimated costing now shows a potential profit for us. The contractors will give us weekly figures of exports at the gate as they proceed. Peter will talk to HMRC regards any possible tax implications. The contractors also have offered to brush and pile for £1 per tonne, and it was agreed that we could ask them to do this as we saw the profit coming in.

Aidan said that grant funding should be available for re-planting and he will follow this up. He also advised that the felling licences had been supplied to Matt at the contractors.

**Planting day** 50 shrubs planted, with fifteen people attending, and it was a success so Aidan will carry this forward, following up contact with schools etc. He has checked the planting areas and all are doing well. Instead of 2-4pm, they will all start at 2pm next time

#### **Laide Woodlanders**

Aidan outlined his plans for adult participation in practical woodland management to take place on Saturday afternoons in the summer, with the first one to be set up for the 14th May, and advertised in the usual way when they will work on clearing lodgepole pine from beside sponsored trees and the picnic tables.

He also asked about the supply of tools, and this was discussed together with the possibility of getting the suppliers to sponsor us, potentially including HIS and B&Q.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt Feedback**

Feedback was excellent. After discussion it was agreed that we need 4 boxes of eggs next time, due to the increased attendance. Also that more supervision of both the car park and the trail are required. The timing of the start of the hunt should be simultaneous for all the participants.

The event collected £102.

#### **Primrose Walk preparations and programme for the day Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April Any other relevant event details or changes to existing programme**

The Primrose Walk will take place on Saturday 30th April. There will be the yurt plus refreshments, duck race, face painting (subject to finding a new face painter) or alternatively tattoo stickers. Janet will follow up. The garden seat raffle: Tony will supply the seat, and there will be up to 10 other prizes as before.

Martin Rowe will do a willow weaving demo. Malcolm Purvis will do a wooden pencil making exhibit.

It was agreed that sand bags will be obtained to dam the burn for the duck race due to the short time available, though for the future we will consider making a removable wooden sluice.

The Yurt will be erected on Thursday 25th meeting at the container in the village at 10am.

Janet listed the other events on the calendar. All should go ahead as dated, with James Merryweather still to confirm, and the Teddy bear picnic cancelled as it clashes with an NTS event.

Kevin advised us that we are now co-ordinating our diary with the events organisers at NTS Inverewe, and the Friends of Inverewe, so future events should be less likely to compete.

#### **Feedback ATV Course held in Laide Wood**

Considered excellent, with two new applicants passing successfully strengthening our work party team capability. The yellow trail is now mostly cleared as a result of the work done, and should shortly re-open.

#### **Update on recent equipment purchases**

As the Generator parts are still not here, Peter undertook to follow up.

It was agreed to purchase two new chainsaws will be purchased, along with bow saws (to make up to 10 in total).

Tony will get more wood stain and we will acquire empty bags for sand.

**Working parties priorities and date for closing all but emergency work for the summer and date for re commencing regular weekly working parties in the autumn**

The Monday Work parties will end late May to start again end September. Except for any emergency work.

**Any other business**

Peter informed us about the Paths For All application first stage for £1500, which we should hear about in a few days.

Aidan told us that it was very important to replace the broken visitor counters in order to make grant applications . Also he explained the liaison work he proposed with Woodland Trust and others which was agreed he should pursue. Peter suggested Green Gym as another possible partner.

It was also agreed that tree sponsorship could be featured as part of tree planting courses as discussed by Aidan.

Finally we discussed the supplying of bird boxes for Peter Cunningham's bird watch days..

The firewood sale will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>, in the Aultbea Hall.