

Minutes

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland – Directors Meeting

Meeting held online, Thursday 26th January 2017 commencing 7.30pm

Present: John Rippin, Kevin Ginty, Nick Murray, Peter Jarosz, Aidan Bell

Apologies: Jan Barclay, Tony Carpenter

Approval of the last minutes

The previous minutes were approved. Proposed: Aidan Bell , Seconded John Rippin:

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Matters to AOB

SRDP claims going forward at year end.

Treasurer's Report

November invoices are all paid up to date. Some timber still to go.

Year end returns to 31st May 2016 now submitted to OSCR and Companies House.

Membership renewals checked, and updated.

Harvesting

The final stage and projected profits. JR said harvesting went very well, and was handled sensitively. The ground state is better than it was last time around. There is scope for some good walking routes.

When the weather dries out a bit, we can walk and inspect the routes with a view to settling on new paths and trails. There was some discussion and it was agreed to get the digger driver in to review and scope out paths, future mounding, and disposal of the film set. We will also explore a route up to the bank to provide access to the top of the Sand Burn, close to the top fence for fencing maintenance. We can then consider practicality of different types of routes and settle on most appropriate ones.

Access might be possible from the North car park, depending on ground conditions, possibly making a new car park at the north entrance. Some timber remains in the stacking area for our use as firewood (lodgepole). Some Sitka spruce remaining too, which can be milled and used for timber. Munro Harvesting have performed well overall, and conducted the operation in a sensitive way.

Expenditure up to £1,500 was approved for the digger survey and other investigatory work.

There was some discussion on ring fencing funding for new path development. It was agreed that the income received from harvesting would be put towards grant applications for new paths and other related developments, and the onward development of the wood such as work around the Butts.

There are ongoing problems with the large chainsaw used on the saw mill, possibly needing replacement.

Events for 2017 Highland Council Ranger Service – the future looks uncertain, with Highland Council seeming likely to cancel this service. Some ranger events held in the Wood are therefore at risk. A letter has been sent to Highland Council lobbying for the ranger service. Letter to be forwarded on to our councillors (action JB).

Website and Newsletter Contributions please, to Kevin for March Newsletter. KG has set up a Laide Wood Instagram account, and there is now a link on the homepage to add it.

New Directors Peter Henderson, Geoff Dalziel and John Bramham are willing to join the committee and were appointed by the meeting. KG to contact and register the new directors with companies house (action KG).

SRDP claims – AB explained situation regarding claims for SRDP funding, for restocking post harvesting. Checking situation regarding availability of funding support for restocking and when applications need to be made. For footpath maintenance, a grant per metre is available for resurfacing etc. AB investigating procedure, and ascertaining visitor numbers using the trails. Footpath application should be able to be submitted shortly. JR asked about deer management, AB to investigate, important for restocking provision.

AOB - Jim Henderson offered to do a drone survey, and get some aerial images to help with planning.

Next meeting The next Directors meeting will take place on Thursday 30th March 2017 in the upper meeting room at the Aultbea Hall, commencing 7.30pm.

KG