

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland
Directors Meeting Held in the Aultbea Hall Upper Meeting Room
On Thursday September 30th , 2010

Minutes

Present

John Rippin (chair), Peter Jarosz (treasurer), , Nick Murray, Andrew Jackman, Tony Carpenter, Janet Barclay

Apologies

Alan Turnbull (secretary) and Kevin Ginty

Approval of the last minutes

Proposed Nick Murray

Seconded Tony Carpenter

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

Treasurers Report

PJ gave us a detailed report on current finances, the Clydesdale Bank deposit account would be moved to Scottish Widows Charity Account giving us 2.25 APR and no restriction on withdrawals.

This would be done as soon as our current commitment with Clydesdale comes to an end.

Gift Aid application will have to be done on a new style form that will also be completed within the next seven days.

Membership fees due 1st September have been coming in reaching a total of £902.50 for this year with some donations. This is comparable with last years' higher figure owing to the number of life members which will not show again and standing orders which trickle throughout the year.

The grant for the Nature Trail interpretation Board had been approved in full from SNH.

Priority Tasks

These outstanding tasks now become priority to complete before the end of the year

The Hide

Roofing between the containers creating the timber store

Lord Lieutenant's Plaque

The Cladding for the hide has now been decided, vertical timber planking will be used and AJ agreed to supply it from the NT Inverewe sawmill, he will quote a price as soon as he has received quantities and dimensions. TC and NM thought they would complete the hide before the weather starts to deteriorate providing we could get the timber fairly quickly. JB said she would source posters from RSPB. It was agreed once the hide is ready for a public opening we would invite a representative from SNH to carry out a formal opening.

The roofing between the containers is a task that can be fairly quickly completed once we receive the pipes and fittings. It was agreed we go with corrugated metal sheeting for the roof and JR agreed to order from Highland Industrial Supplies who would deliver to site.

The cairn for the Lord Lieutenant's plaque requires external rendering and the plaque fixing in place JR said he would complete the rendering as soon as possible weather permitting.

It was suggested by JR that we get these tasks out of the way before committing to any other works which require volunteer labour. The response for help has not been overwhelming in the past and we must realise that what we have as the current workforce is probably all that is available to us.

Highland Leader

The next deadline for Application to LEADER is end of October and every effort will be made to meet this deadline. PJ and AJ will meet to discuss the application and attempts will be made to source match funding targeting a minimum of 15%. JR who is completing the business plan also agreed to attend this meeting to get up to speed on the application so that he could assist if necessary. It was suggested by AJ that we could split the renewable energy part of the application for the purpose of match funding, this was to be investigated.

Nature Trail

The subject of the Boards for the nature trail project was discussed in depth and the various options considered. As SNH were to sponsor the project it was considered necessary to meet the specification we had submitted with our application for funds. Whilst we were very impressed with the portfolio and sample submitted by Mr Tim Davis "Bloomonkey" graphics, after much deliberation it was decided to place the business with SR Webservices Ltd. They had been responsible for the original leaflet artwork and car park interpretation board and had quoted for the precise specification expected by SNH. SR Webservices had recommended various inclusions on the boards, SNH logo (with appropriate permission) was one and a trail map showing the position of the boards another along with Laide Wood logo and the normal obligatory company and charity numbers. It was decided at this meeting that the trail map although normal for this type of nature trail, would at this stage pin us down to positions before the nature trail had been fully tested and possibilities explored. Instead we would put a laminated nature trail map on the notice board which could be changed as and when required.

A final point was made that we should certainly consider Mr Davis for any future work and on the basis of what we had seen, we would not hesitate to recommend him for consideration by any other party interested in a similar project.

The lecterns for mounting the board would be constructed by Ken Williamson who had provided us with a very competitive quote.

AOB

JB eleven entries received for the water lily competition these would be judged by Rob Howard from "Solas" within the next few days and a flyer placed in shops and post offices announcing the winners, KG would be advised and the information placed on the web site.

Curator of Gairloch Museum had agreed to allow us to place an exhibition in the museum from the 2nd to 9th April 2011. This would be a general Laide Wood "through the ages" display which would include the results of the painting competition. Jan asked everyone to consider and contribute in any way they could to the exhibition, this was met with approval and enthusiasm from all those present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

The next Directors meeting will take place on Thursday 25th November commencing 7.30 pm