

## FINAL

### ▪ FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD STEERING COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF JULY MEETING

- **Date:** 20 July, 2018
- **Time:** 4.00pm
- **Place:** KCFC, Tighnabruaich
- **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Andree Hawke, Eve MacFarlane, Heather Muir, Lucy Roper, Robin Webster.
- **Apologies:** Rob Borruso, Mick Eyre.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and could therefore be dated and signed off by Eve prior to posting on the FoGW website.

**ACTION:** Eve.

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Lucy reported that we are £346 in credit, some of which is currently unspent money from the BioBlitz budget which has been earmarked to go towards buying moth- and camera-traps for use at future BioBlitzes and for on-going recording of fauna in the wood.

**ACTION:** Lucy, to look into prices for camera- and moth-traps.

3. **Update on Feasibility Study/Business Plan/FCS visit** Following the recent visit by Anna XXXXX, an independent panel member of the CATS evaluation panel, Mark was able to brief the group on the feedback she provided about Duncan's feasibility study, our plans for the future of Glenan Wood and what she saw as the strengths and weaknesses of our bid. Among the points she touched on were:

- i. The need for a clear demonstration of community support
- ii. Securing a discount – how to quantify benefits of physical/mental wellbeing, the need to argue our case, the need to be realistic in terms of discount sought
- iii. Demonstrating long term ambition, e.g. seeking to become a National Nature Reserve
- iv. Demonstrating a clear strategy for raising money/monetising the wood to cover on-going costs.
- v. Developing a deer management strategy
- vi. The requirement for a strategy to deal with bracken

The latter point led to a discussion about how we might eventually use different areas of the wood. Robin said he could draw up an illustrative plan indicating the potential use of different areas on a map. The issue of deer impact on any such plans was discussed and it was agreed that an informal approach could be made to an estate manager known to the committee members to seek from preliminary advice on what may or may not be possible in terms of commercial deer stalking/culling.

There had been a suggestion during the site visit that if we were able to attract ospreys to the site by building a nesting platform, the possibility of monetising bird hides would be created. It was felt that rather than try to organise another work party, a site visit to get a better feel for what might be possible at the plantation area of the wood was likely to be more beneficial.

In terms of securing demonstrable community support it was suggested that we should leaflet homes and businesses in the entire PA21 area, with a leaflet (already printed) and returnable insert to indicate support/become a FOGW member.

**ACTIONS:** Robin to produce site map with suggested uses for different areas. All to consider leaflet insert to demonstrate community support. Eve to speak to local estate manager re. economics of culling deer (value of meat, potential to charge for hides etc)

4. **Next meeting** The date of the next meeting was proposed for August 24 at 4pm, location to be confirmed.

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**ENDS**