

FINAL

■ FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD TRUSTEES' MEETING – March 2020

- **Date:** March 30, 2020
- **Time:** 10.00am
- **Place:** Remotely via video conference.
- **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Heather Cattermole, Andree Hawke, Ian Lindsay, Lucy Roper, Robin Webster
- **Apologies:** Rob Borusso, Eve MacFarlane

Agenda items

1. Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were signed off and can therefore be posted on the FoGW website. **ACTION: Eve**

2. Treasurer's Report. Lucy informed the group that the current account stands at £17,200 with wages having gone out and tool ordering underway. A new debit card was on order after the existing one had been mislaid. A £250 cheque has been received from the Gibson/Graham charitable Trust which will require a thank you letter and there is £100 yet to be banked. Robin asked about the need to continue to send out requests for donations and it was felt that Eve could send out a further mailshot to that effect. **ACTION: Eve, Lucy**

3. Agreeing payments and purchases It was agreed that tools and other items could be ordered up to a maximum of £100 before board approval was required. Lucy flagged up the need to separate out and ringfence wages from purchases and Mick said he would work on a cashflow spreadsheet to provide clarity and confidence on that issue. Robin highlighted that cashflow is a key issue at present.
ACTION: Mick

4. Safety Report Rhyddian explained that a basic risk assessment is in place but stated that he needed a board representative to liaise with over long-term safety policy matters. It was agreed that Rob was the obvious person to liaise with over these issues. **ACTION: Rhyddian, Rob**
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5. Covid 19 Planning It was agreed that there is currently no scope for volunteer working parties and therefore much work simply cannot be carried out. Mick suggested that there may be funding available to assist with cashflow issues caused by the Covid crisis and that this could be used at the back end of the proposed employment period/programme of work to cover the missed working period. Robin suggested seeking a four-month extension to the current programme given the amount of time and work being lost. It was agreed to discuss the matter further by email with Mick and Rhyddian.

6. Pods update There was discussion around pod design covering issues such as cost, appearance, uniqueness, the layout and number of beds, sanitation/toilet facilities and their associated impact, and the access road.

Robin suggested there was some latitude in pod design and positioning and that each pod could be unique in some way. Given the decision to install toilets within the pods, Mick stated that a toilet/wormery arrangement has already been accepted by Argyll and Bute Council elsewhere and that this was the system to adopt. However, as there is no budget for toilets this would have to come later. Mick stated that the design would have to be utilitarian with a modular interior and that most issues could be dealt with at the planning stage. Heather questioned the proposed split between numbers of single and double beds in each pod and how that could limit communal use.

Andree expressed concern about the way toilet and sanitation issues could affect the pods' design and usability. Heather said she was not OK with the impact of sanitation and drainage infrastructure on the wood itself. The issue of water supply and sewage was also mentioned. Robin voiced his concerns about the access road and the possibility that it may need to be brought up to "adoptable" standard. Mick said the possible workaround would be to change the parking access to a point adjacent to the existing concrete road. Rhyddian asked for it to be minuted that his preference is for the process with planners, building and landscaping to specify a preference for using 'low impact development' principles and design with biodiversity of the woodland maximized. He suggested that a simple and useful definition can be found at: <http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/files/files/Dev%20Plans/AdoptedSPG/LowImpactSPGadoptionJuly13complete.pdf>

7. Other funding applications There was an update about various funding applications from Mick, including the Year of Coasts and Waters for which a decision was expected imminently. A decision from The Princes Trust was expected to be delayed. Other funding streams including Paths For All and ACHA and funding for summer play schemes were touched on but it was felt that the current Covid crisis is likely to affect the timings of these applications/outcomes.

Andree said that ACT (Argyll and Isles Coast and Countryside Trust) are in the process of putting in a £1.2 million funding application. Glenan is one of four woods in Argyll which ACT is including in their funding application. (They are applying for funding for Biodiversity, Rainforest Expansion, INNS Control, Mapping, Deer management, Natural capital, Sustainability and ongoing investment, Carbon capture, Benefits for people, Access, paths and interpretation, Health and Wellbeing, Community Arts/Rural Skills, New Audience)

We will not be able to apply for the funding. If ACT is successful they will work with the 4 woods to help bring about some of the above. They will not make us do anything we are against, but will help us realise some of the above.

8. Forest management and volunteers Rhyddian explained that he had experienced some issues when trying to order tools and was hoping the board would sanction the provision of a phone SIM card so that he could keep his work and home numbers separate. All agreed that having proper phone coverage while at work was essential for Rhyddian and that providing a separate SIM/phone with

reliable coverage came under safety issues and should therefore be approved. In terms of his time on site and geolocation, he mentioned sending coordinates using a geolocation software via WhatsApp to others. In the absence of volunteers his work is mainly ringbarking trees and cutting rhododendrons as well as mapping the site for replanting.

9. Governance Andree stated that in view of the current impossibility of meeting Mark Bamford of KCFC to discuss this issue there was nothing to report.

ENDS