

FINAL

■ FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD TRUSTEES' MEETING – August 2020

- **Date:** August 13, 2020
- **Time:** 8.00pm
- **Place:** Remotely via video conference.
- **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Rob Borusso, Heather Cattermole, Mick Eyre, Rhyddian Knight, Andree Hawke, Eve MacFarlane, Niall McFarlane, Robin Webster
- **Apologies:** Katherine Lowrie

Agenda items

1. Treasurer's Report. Niall informed the group that while the current account is healthy at this stage, he would like to know about any further potential funding streams from Mick. Robin also expressed some concerns over the cost of the building warrant and his office costs in terms of the original projected costs, which when combined could be £1800 to £2000. Niall stated that while last year's accounts are slightly overdue, they will be submitted imminently and given the Covid pandemic there is no risk of any penalties. Recent transactions in addition to wage payments include the purchase of a strimmer. There was some discussion over the idea of returning money to the BoostIt fund given the lack of future campervan project but it was felt that the change was justifiable given the new campervan site close by.
2. Forest Ranger. Rhyddian said that he has been having various meetings with people in an around Glenan including the owners of Glenan Cottage, Cuid Oiche and Crispie estate as well as board members Niall and Mark. He has written a newsletter which is ready to be sent to the FOGW members and he met members of the Green Team to discuss issues related to Covid and volunteering, and much of his time has been taken up with preparing the deer management contract. He was also been involved in erecting Andree's natural history information sign. Heather asked about biochar and Rhyddian said that while he is still waiting to hear back about a grant from the Co-op Communities fund he has been doing some calculations about the potential biochar yield of the plantation.
3. Development Officer Report. Mick explained that following attendance at a video seminar of the Argyll Small Woods Cooperative it is clear that FOGW will not qualify for any grant funding for carbon capture via the Woodland Carbon Code due to our inability to replant and restock previously planted areas in line with the relevant stipulations. Andree asked about replanting the area near the plantation but given the presence of power lines, planting there is not possible. While that income stream may not be viable Mick said charcoal and biochar may be a more productive option through a grant from the Crown Estate. Other funding applications underway include Action Earth for volunteering activities, the Baillie Gifford and Garfield West foundations for temporary deer fencing 'exclosures' and the Canoe Foundation for potential storage for kayaks. There was a potentially matchable donation from a member of the public to improve the path and create a bridge over the stream nearest the picnic benches. Mick also mentioned a proposal for a deer fence across the west Cowal peninsula which could complement FOGW measures. Eve asked about funding for heritage and

history projects but Mick said that when those streams open up then the abandoned village could be at the centre of any applications.

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4. Rural Payment Scheme Rhyddian said he was sent a document which indicates there could be some significant funding available to develop a short rotation coppicing and nursery area which could take place in the area of the plantation. He asked the board to look at the relevant document, consider it and provide feedback on this proposal and before he takes it any further. He also requested that he might recoup any electricity costs associated with recharging the batteries of any work equipment. The board agreed to this. Mick asked about the possibility of investigating a hydro scheme but it was felt that the topography makes this unviable. Rhyddian also said that he would be progressing and finalising the deer management contract to signing off stage. There was some discussion around who had volunteered to be the designated H&S liaison board member and it was agreed that Niall as Rhyddian's line manager would be the most appropriate person. Rhyddian also asked about nominating board members to be the designated person to undertake certain safety related administrative tasks, including those related to risk assessment and operating procedures.

5. Meeting with Angus Bevan Rhyddian said that he and Mick met with freelance woodland consultant Angus Bevan with a view to broadly identifying areas for deer exclosures. Angus would return in the autumn when the bracken is down to make more precise recommendations about exactly where the fences would be located and Rhyddian invited board members to walk the potential sites with him beforehand if they so wished. Mick said that Angus could add his experience and expertise to any applications made for deer fencing. Eve suggested that it would be useful to have some communication around the idea of deer management to FOGW, possibly a video and it was agreed this was desirable.

6. Any other business Rhyddian reiterated his request that the board provide some feedback to him on the potential plantation coppicing

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7. Next meeting The date of the next meeting was not fixed.

ENDS