

Final

1st November 2020

FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD STAFF/BOARD MEETING – October, 2020

- **Date:** October 30, 2020
- **Time:** 10.00am
- **Place:** Virtual
- **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Rob Borusso, Heather Cattermole, Katherine Lowrie,

Eve MacFarlane, Niall McFarlane, Rhyddian Knight, Robin Webster.

Apologies: Andrée Hawke.

Agenda items

1. Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to minor amendments.

2. Treasurer's Report: We have the money from the Boost It Fund, but this is ring fenced for the "shepherd's huts" proposal. We have received funds from Tighnabruaich Development Trust for the purchase of tools and equipment which we have now spent, and we need to secure additional funds for any further planned activities.

3. Forest Ranger's Report

PATH REMEDIATION Rhyddian stated that work to drain paths has continued on the Shore and Forest Paths with requests for volunteer support advertised on social media. This work is ongoing.

BIOCHAR He made what turned out to be an unsuccessful request to gain a Co-op grant for a mobile biochar retort, but he has now expressed interest in using a mobile kiln which the Argyll Small Woods Co-operative may raise funds for. If funding streams become available, he would like to purchase a dedicated kiln for FOGW. There was insufficient time at present to bid for a Climate Fund grant, but he is looking into business plan case studies from author Rebecca Oaks via the Argyll Small Woods Cooperative.

DEER The Crispie estate have been positive about access and he has undertaken two site visits to determine quad access with the estate manager there. Rhyddian has begun rhododendron clearance of a connecting gully on the Glenan side, and has also identified a potential quad route at the main entrance to the Wood which he will further investigate.

FENCING After some prior reconnaissance, Rhyddian met with Angus Bevan last week to determine potential areas for enclosures in each of the woodland zones. Once Angus is in receipt of coordinates, he hopes to produce a map with accompanying recommendations with the results potentially being ready for a short presentation at the AGM. In the event that FOGW wishes to proceed with plans for a pilot cluster of enclosures, Rhyddian said he felt that crowdfunding may be the way to secure funds – an idea met with approval from the board.

MyFOREST/WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN Rhyddian said that Angus has also agreed to scrutinise our woodland management plan, and then we can assess its readiness for submission to FC.

Katherine will be involved in this process and has stated that what she has read up to this point looks good. Angus has suggested Rhyddian receive training in woodland management planning, which would avoid the requirement to pay for an agent. Rhyddian also said he is in discussion with myForest to make sure FOGW has the digital rights over existing mapping following the closure of the outgoing Development Officer's account. Rhyddian will look into relevant courses and prices following Angus' suggestion and the board's agreement that this is a good idea. Another option for the preparation of the Forest Management Plan is to prepare a simple "cut and paste" plan to meet the minimum requirements, to be further developed at a later date. Rhyddian has sent a copy of the plan to Angus Bevan and to Katherine who thinks the appendixes will need to be populated to complete it. Katherine asked about the nature of the Forest Management Plan and whether it would be a simple working document to use as a basis for accessing grants or whether it should be more aspirational in its nature, setting out FOGW's vision for the future. It was generally agreed that it should contain something of our vision, which may require some additional thinking and input.

Action: Katherine, Rhyddian

4. Pod Update:

Robin recommended that as the Council planning officers could not support our current application for the pod development, we should withdraw our planning application. This is in order to avoid a refusal at this stage, which ultimately would be more difficult to overcome should we wish to proceed down this route in future. The board agreed that this was a sensible course of action at present, in light of discussions around the best way to proceed with the "BoostIt Fund" loan.

Robin, as the temporary point of contact, will go back to the BoostIt Fund to explain that following negative initial feedback from planning, we are currently considering what will be the best way forward to develop a scheme which fits with their criteria. **Action: Robin**

5. AGM:

The notification about the date and the virtual (Zoom) nature of the meeting will be sent out by Eve, together with a standard agenda. There was some technical discussion around a potential amendment to the charity's constitution which followed on from prior discussions around the requirement for trustees to step down and be immediately re-elected on a rolling basis. This change may need to take the form of a proposal to be put to members at the forthcoming AGM. Niall will look into this and come back with some suggestions as to how to amend the constitution accordingly. This may entail a delay to the date of the AGM but Niall will look into the matter with a view to retaining the original November 20th date for the AGM. Niall will look into the costs of upgrading us to a paid for Zoom subscription. **Action: Niall**

6. Development Officer and way forward:

The Development Officer had resigned and his last day was 20th October. The Board looked forward to receiving handover details from him, in order that we can proceed with our future plans. There was some discussion around the whereabouts of the natural history information panel and how to arrange its collection.

7. Storage Shed

Robin stated that David and Katherine have kindly donated a small shed which will be erected at the plantation opposite the Wood Chip Shop site in due course.

8. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 18th November at 10am was set for the time and date of the next meeting, which will be a virtual one.

