

Friends of Glenan Wood

Draft Minutes of Board Meeting on 16th April 2025

Present:

Katharine Lowrie (Chair), Niall McFarlane (Treasurer), Robin Webster (Secretary), Peter Wood, Hannah Buss

Apologies:

Kate Gray, Iain Waugh, Rhyddian Knight

Vision Day:

This was seen to have been a success, in spite of the appalling weather. Hannah said she regretted not asking for thoughts about the eventual future of the wood, after its past history and present position had been considered. There will be an event for schoolchildren next week, following which the themes and issues raised will be illustrated as planned feedback. **Action Hannah**

Niall noted that there were costs of around £900 to be met before monies were received from ABCAM

It was suggested that a "Vision Day" might be an annual event.

Deer

Our stalker reported that since September 2024 he had culled 13 deer, (11 red and 2 roe).

The stalkers "chairs" had arrived and were being put in position. The shooting window is now closed until September.

It was agreed that the number of deer being culled was way below what was required to significantly affect the damage they are doing to the wood: ideally we need to initiate a massive cull, such as carried out at Glen Feshie. Katharine to research what that cost was and who paid for it. **Action: Katharine**

Finance

Niall reported that we currently have only £1,700.00 in the bank that is unallocated. Robin had only made £70 for Glenan at the craft fair on Sunday, selling tee shirts and paintings. Various items of Rhyddian's wish list have already been bought however, and the "Arbor Trolley" is on its way.

Future Funds

Niall to ask Peter (our link with the Lottery) if we may make a bid for a further period of funding for the Ranger etc before this current grant ends in June 2026 **Action Niall**

It was suggested that we should make a new application to TDDT and also to the Argyll Community Fund..both of these only pay 50%, so we could ask each for 50% of the same items. **Action Robin**

Our Forest Management Plan had apparently been rejected by Scottish Forestry (SF) Katharine to investigate, as once this is approved, we should be able to apply for funds from SF. **Action Katharine**

It was agreed that Rhyddian's request for £90 per annum to maintain the website by jaijiel creative should be met.

Action Rhyddian & Niall

It was agreed that £750 + VAT for legal expenses regarding the water supply should be met, after Peter had determined the access point, and spoken to John Blair, who has agreed to carry out the work: (Peter has some alkathene pipe). We also need to know who owns the road, (Eggesund?) and it would be best if the water should be potable, which needs to be clarified. **Action: Peter and then Robin.**

“Canopy Camping” have promised us £5k, and indicated that their sponsors might be able to add to this total up to £20k, but we need to be aware that the costs may have to be met by us before the monies are available, which might not be until September well after the event in July: this may involve us temporarily “borrowing” from funds restricted for Rhyddian’s salary.

Action Niall

We have already agreed to go ahead with the composting toilet, and Richard of Portavadie Distilleries (Correct name?) have offered to pay for this. Cost including slab (and erection by John Blair) circa £10k. Peter to ask Richard if they can let us have funds for this in advance, or if they can order it? **Action Peter**

“Wish List”

In order to have a list of items that Canopy Camping’s sponsors might pay for (maybe up to £20k), we need to prioritise what we would ideally want: it is important to note that at present we cannot afford any of these, although if the composting toilet is paid for by Portavadie Distilleries, we should be able to ask the National Lottery to pay us the £9k allotted to us as capital expenditure.

The following items were discussed, although priorities not finalised:

Water Supply : legal fees £900.00 (we **have** agreed to meet this, see above)

People Counter: £850.00

Back up for Ranger’s computer: £500.00, (or annual payment to “the cloud”?)

Material for Deer exclosures (@ £175 per 100m enclosure, say 10 exclosures) £1,750.00

Chainsaw certification (estimate £500 p/p from Iain Holt, for 3 people): £1,500.00

New computer for Ranger: £1,000.00

“Cook Tent”: £750.00(? approx.?)

Material for timber bridge before old village: £900.00

Total: £7,400

This falls rather short of the possible £20k, so we could add a further £10k for rhododendron removal, (“lever& mulch preferred) and/or a further £5k towards paying the stalker for more deer culling.

Robin to inform Canopy /Camping folk of this.

Action Robin

Long term potential funding for rhododendron removal is still being hoped for, Robin to contact Ian Dow of “ACT” to see if there has been any further movement with this.

Action Robin

Forest Ranger Reports

While it was appreciated that Rhyddian had produced a general forecast of his activities, the trustees all felt it would be really helpful and not time consuming if he could let us have a very short weekly note at the end of each week by email, confirming what he did in the past week and what and when he planned to do in the coming week. This would allow trustees to keep in touch and inform others if asked. Peter to speak to Rhyddian about this.

Action Peter & Rhyddian

CPD

Katharine had been in touch with other similar organisations regarding CPD for employees. 4 days per annum seemed to be the norm, while any CPD had to be seen to be directly useful to the trust: further CPD in an employee's own time was not an issue.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th May, at 12.30pm