

# Friends of Glenan Wood Board Minutes

Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Present:

Iain, Hannah, Kate, Peter & Robin

## Apologies:

Katharine, Niall & Rhyddian

## Minutes

Minutes of last meeting in April were approved.

## Water

Peter noted that the source of the water was rather further away than the blue pipe.

John Blair needs water for his house too. **Action: Peter** to contact Rudi to find source of water. Also to check with John Blair if he is still willing to get the supply to us .

## Composting Toilet

Robin and Hannah confirmed that a building warrant should not be required, as the toilet was under 15 sq metres, and does not have a separate soakaway for urine.

While we have agreed as a board to purchase this, we do not currently have funds to do so. It does seem very expensive, so we should check other quotes and also see how much of it we could build ourselves. It would be good to see what was done in Bute.

We should also consider having a sink..(there is a double basin stainless steel sink available behind the wee hut.)

**Action: Robin and Rhyddian** to contact Bute people and visit and check what they did.

## Finance

Niall had produced a report. We currently only have £385 available to spend. After the end of June, we should be in receipt of funds from the Lottery restricted for Rhyddian's salary, which we could use some of temporarily to fund the toilet, paying it back when the costs for the toilet is reimbursed out of the Lottery's capital fund, which is only paid on invoices, (giving us a cash flow problem at the moment.)

## Items to be purchased

### Metal box for cooking

Rhyddian has asked for a metal box to cook with during the canopy camping event. (Canopy Camping folk will refund the cost of this eventually).

**Action: Rhyddian** to establish cost of box and report back.

## Fire beaters:

Due to the increased risk of fire, we need more fire beaters. **Action: Rhyddian** to cost and purchase and/or construct after reporting back.

## Sales Drive

Hannah said she felt that we could get a small but steady income by encouraging friends to make a small monthly donation to Glenan..(say about £5, or whatever could be afforded). They might then be called “Custodians”. Robin agreed, and said he already did this with another charity, and agreed to provide a form that could be used to set up a standing order. We could start this at the Producers’ market which is on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00 till 1.00.

**Action: Robin** to provide the standing order form, and will man the stall: (any others welcome to help!).

## Long term and other sources of funding

Iain had investigated SSEN grants, and thinks these are limited to £4,500 p.a. (However, Ian Dow apparently thinks we could access funds from SSEN to pay Rhyddian’s salary. **Action: Robin** to contact Ian Dow and clarify how we might access this.

It was agreed that it is essential that we get longer term funding, so that Rhyddian can have some security. It was noted that while the current Lottery funding was focussed on the community, our first priority is to rescue the wood from invasive species (deer, rhododendrons etc.) We must clarify the cost of monitoring and improving the biodiversity of the wood. At the February board meeting, Katherine was asked if she could give us some ball-park figures of getting academic specialists to survey the wood and give us a benchmark of its current state. This could be used to justify long term funds for Energikontor and others. **Action: Katharine** to ascertain ball-park costs of getting specialist reports.

## Deer

Our stalker has pointed out that deer are not in Glenan during the daytime, but come from around about in the night.

Nature Scotland are looking at owners to agree a big cull in Cowal, from Otter Ferry to Tighnabruaich: it is not clear if this is going to go ahead. The idea of a 3 kilometre fence between Cairndow and Loch Goil has not been agreed by some big landowners, but might seem to be an economical approach.

## Forest Ranger Reports

It was noted that Rhyddian has itemised what he is doing on the Google calendar, and also produces itemised reports for meetings.

It was agreed that when Peter meets Rhyddian on Wednesdays, Peter could briefly clarify with Rhyddian what is planned for the following week and what has been achieved during the past week, and Peter could keep a note of this. **Action: Peter** to do this with Rhyddian on a weekly basis.

## Date of Next Meeting

This was agreed to be on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm**