

Friends of Glenan Wood

Trustee meeting on 25th June 2025

Present:

Katherine, Iain (part time), Peter, Kate, Robin.

In attendance: Ian Dow and Rhyddian

Apologies:

Niall and Hannah

Argyll Community Trust (ACT)

Ian Dow had kindly agreed to meet us to explain recent developments with ACT and Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) regarding likely future funding.

A meeting at Glenan Wood is scheduled for **11.00am on Monday 7th July** at Glenan Car Park, with ACT and SSEN representatives Gillian Barry and Russell (*surname?*).

Katharine Lowrie will attend, and hopefully Iain Waugh. (**Action Katharine & Iain**)

Lunch has been booked at the Marina for 1.30pm

SSEN are moving towards Biodiversity Net Gain (BDNG), and are reviewing their biodiversity report. Ian said that drone surveys of Glenan showed that there were 19 ha of consolidated rhododendron clearance required, and 15 ha of conifer clearance, some with very difficult access.

A long term habitat management plan is required, and this should be sent to Ian to arrive before the 7th July. (Our Forest Management Plan should cover this, although it has not yet been formally approved) We should share this with our neighbours, (Tilhill @ Crispie, Scottish Woodlands, Portavadie Marina, Kilfinan Community Council etc) (**Action Katharine**)

A 30 year rainforest natural regeneration and enhancement scheme was being proposed, with £91m from the National Parks and £51m from National Forestry: There was £2m allowed for the first 5-6 years. (Funding for a natural regeneration enhancement scheme is £250/ha.)

Ian said he would let us have the draft Head of Terms proposed for a partnership between Friends of Glenan Wood (as the landlord and owner of Glenan Wood), and ACT and others: (funds to meet lawyers' fees were available for this). **Action Ian Dow**

There was discussion on how a Forest Ranger for Glenan might be funded: possibly for site management and delivery...or could a ranger be employed by ACT? (ACT already have a "Rainforest Squad" at Kilmun Castle & Tayvallich). Nature Scotland are looking for a Kilfinan deer management group, and are offering £6 per ha, (which apparently Winston Churchill say is OK). Funding is likely for a Cowal deer larder .

Ian was thanked for coming and left the meeting.

The National Community Lottery Fund

Rhyddian to let Robin have a report for the Lottery on activities and achievements over the last year. **Action Rhyddian**

Robin to contact our link with the Lottery and enquire about a continuation of the current grant, and the timing of a new application. **Action Robin**

Return of Species

Katherine said we needed to plan the reintroduction of species to Glenan.

Rhyddian asked about reintroducing highland cattle, as there was a clear advantage in having them in the wood, but it was thought that we should wait until we have the deer under control first.

Composting Toilet

It was agreed that we should go ahead with the cheaper option. (Option 1).

Peter had written to Portavadie Distilleries (who have offered to pay for this) asking for confirmation.

Forestry advice

Rhyddian had been speaking to Andrew McQueen, (an experienced forester) regarding the removal of the hemlock at the Crispie border, and will advise on the value of the conifer patch by the orchard.

Chainsaw certification

Ian Holt has said he would be happy to help us get certification..(there may be external funding for this?)

Finance and Purchases

Niall had submitted a report which showed that we currently had only £502 unrestricted funds available, although we could use a “contingency fund” (which was one month’s salary for Rhyddian). There will also be a shortfall of £1,144 which we need to find from other sources.

It was agreed to go ahead with the toilet, at a cost of £6540, but first to pressure Portavadie Distilleries to come up with the funds they had promised. The Lottery will pay for this as a capital item, but only after it has been built.

We also confirmed that Rhyddian should go ahead with the metal cooking box, (costing £600) as that would be required for the Canopy Campout at the end of July.

We also agreed that Katharine should order some scythes (?how much?)

Rhyddian has prepared a list of other items we will need, amounting to £1,592.04 (including the metal cooking box).

Big Canopy Campout

We are expecting the Canopy Campout (the weekend of 26th and 27th July) to fund us around £5,000, which should be paid in the autumn after the event. We will also take a table at all the coming local fairs, and promote the standing order forms that Hannah had produced, to help increase our income. We need to get people to run short programmed events for that weekend, which could include morning yoga, bug hunts, storytelling, music, and the metal box roast. **Action: All**

It was suggested that around 50-60 people would be the maximum we should allow, and while the event would be free, it should be ticketed.

Date of next Meeting and AGM

Sunday 28th September, in the wood at 12.30pm (time to be confirmed).