

Friends of Glenan Wood

Minutes of Board Meeting held on 30th September 2025

(The meeting was held virtually via “ZOOM”)

Present:

Katharine Lowrie (Chair), Robin Webster (Secretary), Kate Gray, Peter Black, Iain Waugh, Hannah Buss, Jonathan Tesh.

Apologies:

Niall McFarlane (Treasurer)

In Attendance:

Rhyddian Knight (Forest Ranger)

1. Welcome

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, in particular Jonathan, our new trustee.

2. SSEN/ACT Proposals

There was general discussion and agreement that the proposed Biodiversity/net gain project was very important and should provide a means of achieving the aims of the Friends in terms of reducing the threats to the wood.

Ian Dow of ACT had asked for confirmation of the following from the Board:

1. *That ACT should negotiate the proposed project with SSEN on behalf of the Friends of Glenan Wood.*
2. *That ACT should manage the project on behalf of the Friends of Glenan Wood, and that SSEN should make payments directly to ACT.*
3. *That we confirm that ACT are our preferred delivery agent.*

It was agreed unanimously that we should confirm this with Ian, so that he could continue negotiations with SSEN. Katharine will also check with a solicitor she knows.

ACTION Robin & Katharine to notify Ian Dow.

3. Complaints Procedure

It was agreed that the complaints procedure as drafted by Hannah should be adopted, and that it should be posted on our website. Robin also to notify possible complainant.

ACTION Rhyddian to post on website, Robin to email.

4. Redacted Name

There have been a number of difficult emails from *a redacted name*, with false accusations and untrue accounts about us and our activities, including a poster placed in our noticeboard more or less slandering us. Also various materials taken into the wood to repair paths have disappeared. Robin will send her our complaints procedure and we can take it from there..we will probably receive a long reply! **ACTION Robin**

5. Portavadie Marina: Progress

This was deferred to be developed over the winter months.

6. Treasurer Vacancy

Niall McFarlane has sadly resigned as Treasurer, although he has agreed to help with a handover. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy locally, in the hope of a local volunteer. Rhyddian to post on our website, a notice to be put up in Andy's shop, and on the Tighnabruaich Facebook page. **ACTION Robin and Rhyddian**

7. Archaeology

Rhyddian reported that Archaeology Scotland were very enthusiastic and were completing their first year, Phase 1 of a two year commitment. They have (with volunteers) almost completed a "gazetteer" of what we know exists in the wood, and Phase 2 will focus on interpretation. Rhyddian has planned further meetings this year. **ACTION Rhyddian.**

8. Finance

Niall has produced a financial statement (attached). We clearly urgently need more funding. Hannah has produced possible financial strategies. It was agreed that we should rewrite the Membership form in which people are invited to contribute by direct debit. SCVO have lists of potential sources of grants.

Meanwhile Robin will draft an application to the National Community Lottery, (although we have been warned that we are unlikely to get help again), and we also should apply to the National Heritage Lottery, in partnership with Archeology Scotland, as the wood itself does qualify as a heritage asset.

ACTION: Iain to redraft Membership Form, Robin to make Community Lottery application, Rhyddian to draft application to National Heritage Lottery, Hannah to investigate further possible sources via SCVO,

9. Other events

Rhyddian has posted his report for September, (attached, which can be discussed at our next meeting) and has got £300 from Community Land Scotland for a “Biochar Barbecue,” on Saturday 18th October.

There was a proposal for the 2026 programme for a workshop on “how to plant trees”.

ACTION Rhyddian

10. Date of Next Meeting

This is to be in person on **Thursday 30th October, from 12.30-1.30**, at Keepers’ Cottage, Millhouse. (Kate gave her apologies as she will not be able to attend).