

Friends of Glenan Wood.

Meeting on 21st January 2026

Meeting Attendance

The meeting was attended by Robin, Iain, Peter, Hannah, and Rhyddian. Apologies were received from Kate and Katharine.

Vision for Glenan Wood

Hannah requested that the notes she previously circulated regarding the Visioning Day be rewritten into paragraph form, as this would improve readability for all members. She asked that anyone able to carry out this task should send the updated document to her.

Action: All

Finance

We have received £5,000 from the Canopy Campout, and approximately £12,000 from “F/Flow Siemens” which we think is linked to the Canopy Campout event. Niall has indicated he is retiring from his role as Treasurer and also stepping down as a Trustee. He has not yet passed over the Treasurer’s role to Iain, who feels that at the moment we should not rush out and spend anything, but we clearly need to decide on a wish list of priorities, which Rhyddian might draft and we can determine at a future meeting. These might include extending the Ranger’s contract to cover this summer (Rhyddian said that he would be willing to do this), more computer storage, (possibly a new computer, as currently Rhyddian is using his own), a people counter, and a gate to the container site...(Robin noted that we had already had a proposal for a building on the site where the container is situated refused by the planners, so this needs more thought).

Rhyddian to proceed with obtaining tenders for the erection of the composting toilet, (Robin to help to make the invitation more precise). The cost of this should be met from the National Community Grant. **Action Rhyddian and Robin**

SSEN Grant Application

Hannah confirmed that the draft SEN/ACT five-year proposal includes provision for employing a ranger for two days each week. The ranger’s role would focus on community engagement and enhancing facilities for volunteers. Robin reported that he had made contact with BTO Solicitors and had forwarded their proposed fee details to Ian Dow of ACT. It is hoped that SSEN will approve these. However, there is still uncertainty surrounding the “compensation amount”, which could impact the group for the next two to three decades. The

majority of SSEN's funds are expected to be directed to ACT, who will employ teams responsible for removing invasive species. (There is concern about the draft proposal's reliance on glyphosate and other herbicides, as this approach is not good news.) The group agreed to review the proposed heads of terms when they are sent by Ian Dow.

Action: Hannah, Robin and Katharine

Heritage Grant Proposals

The heritage grant applications, which are being developed with Archaeology Scotland by Rhyddian and Hannah, seek £250,000 to be distributed over five years. The proposal includes funding for an Education Officer for three days per week and a Project Manager or Business Development Officer for two days per week. The group discussed whether this allocation of time was suitable for effective liaison with the board and for progressing the organisation towards sustainability. They acknowledged the need for a balanced approach, as being overly ambitious could undermine their chances of success. Hannah and Rhyddian are responsible for further developing this bid with Archaeology Scotland, with the target submission date set for the end of February.

Community Support for Archaeology

Iain shared his personal interest in the archaeological history of Glenan but noted that, according to a community survey in 2022, less than half of the community share this interest. Following a detailed discussion, it was recognised that, while familiar faces frequently attend events, a significant portion of the community is fully engaged, and as more archaeological evidence is gathered—such as discoveries at the “mill”—interest is likely to grow both within the PA21 community and beyond. Rhyddian highlighted the positive attendance numbers and observed considerable enthusiasm for these efforts.

Confidential Matter

The Board considered a confidential matter relating to a privately owned property within the community woodland. Detail has been redacted from the public minutes due to confidentiality considerations.

Ranger's Report

Robin thanked Rhyddian for his excellent report, which showed a hugely successful list of events and activities with considerable numbers attending.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th February at 12.30 in Keeper's Cottage Millhouse.

