

FINAL

▪ FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD STEERING COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

- **Date:** 29 June, 2018
 - **Time:** 4.00pm
 - **Place:** Lucy's House, Portavadie
 - **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Rob Borusso, Eve MacFarlane, Heather Muir, Lucy Roper, Robin Webster.
 - **Apologies:** Andree Hawke, Mick Eyre
1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and could therefore be dated and signed off by Eve prior to posting on the FoGW website.
ACTION: Eve.
 2. **Treasurer's Report.** Lucy explained that the £800 secured from the Tighnabruaich Development Trust to hold the Bio Blitz has largely covered all of the expenses associated with the event and left us with a surplus of £200-300. It was agreed that with the requirement for a big fundraising push on the horizon there was little merit in making relatively minor fundraising efforts at this stage. With a valuation of £300,000 places on Glenan Wood by the district valuer, FoGW may potentially be required to find up to 10% of that sum.
 3. **Bio Blitz** The Bio Blitz was universally regarded as a success by organisers, participating experts and attendees alike. The moth and butterfly expert has fed back that there is the potential to run a follow up programme to monitor moth and butterfly numbers and species on an ongoing basis. The collation and publication of all of the result would also, it was felt, help keep some of the momentum going. The possibility of FoGW acquiring a moth trap was discussed. The Bat Walk was deemed the one activity that could have gone better, an absence of bats and a surfeit of midgies saw to that. Lucy said it was very positive to see the way in which the local community, local businesses and local schools came together to make the event the success it undoubtedly was. There was some discussion around whether it should be an annual event. It was noted that donation for burgers amounted to around £60 and this donation method was deemed an appropriate way to raise a small additional amount of cash at what an event designed to raise FoGW's profile and generate some goodwill as well as recording flora and fauna.
 4. **Update on Feasibility Study/Business Plan** The study/plan had reached members' inboxes shortly before the meeting so nobody had had a chance to properly read and digest it. Once approved it will be forwarded to Forestry Commission Scotland and then the Scottish Land Fund. With a valuation of £300,000 having been placed on the property there was some discussion around methodologies to make up the potential 10% shortfall in public funding however it was agreed that nothing can be done until the final position is known.
ACTION: Eve to set out procedural timetable for the rest of the bid process
 5. **AGM** It was agreed that the AGM should not take place until after the bid submission has been made. A date of September 13 was suggested.
ACTIONEve to check availability of Kames Village Hall
 6. **Membership** There are a few new names to add to the database.
ACTION Heather

7. **Other sources of funding post acquisition** There was some discussion around funding the shortfall in Scottish Land Fund grant funding in the event of our bid being successful. It was felt that a push for personal, corporate and legacy donations could be an effective way to generate the considerable sum required. This area will require significant attention in the event of a successful bid but there were ideas around direct mailing of the community and targeted approaches to potentially large donors.
8. **Communications and publicity** There was some discussion around an e-newsletter and also a press release about the bioblitz using data of flora and fauna recorded with a focus on moths as the hook rather than event itself (which is now old news).
9. **Bracken bashing** It was agreed that some bracken bashing be undertaken on a casual, non-mechanised basis in order to help keep paths clear and allow for some hands-on activity for volunteers within the wood.
10. **Next meeting** The date of the next meeting was proposed for July 16 at either Lucy's house or the KCF lodge

ENDS