

FINAL

■ FRIENDS OF GLENAN WOOD STAFF/BOARD MEETING – September 24 (2nd meeting) 2020

- **Date:** September 24, 2020
- **Time:** 10.00am
- **Place:** Virtual
- **Attendees:** Mark Appleton, Rob Borusso, Heather Cattermole, Andree Hawke, Katherine Lowrie, Eve MacFarlane, Niall McFarlane, Rhyddian Knight, Robin Webster.

Agenda items

1. Forest Ranger report. Rhyddian explained that he had been working on digging drainage ditches on both the Shore and Forest paths – work which had included some success in exposing old drains – while also mapping GPS co-ordinates of places where additional work would be required.

Following the recent identification and contact with a potentially suitable deer manager he said that should suitable carcass extraction routes be identified there was every likelihood that a deer management contract would successfully be put in place.

Having attended a virtual Biochar seminar run by Argyll Small Woods Cooperative Rhyddian was invited to join the board of that body and had accepted this offer. He said that Andree's ecology information panel was ready to be erected, he had bought PPE and tools, sent out a newsletter via Mailchimp and devised a scything and mechanised mowing plan for the wildflower meadow with Katherine.

He has started doing podcasts with a view to garnering interest in volunteering and also liaised with Nicola Greenwood from South Cowal Volunteering who could advertise volunteering opportunities for us, especially for rhododendron clearance and path drainage work. Rhyddian said in view of Covid restrictions that solo volunteering could be the way to proceed and he would welcome feedback from the board. Niall added that posting "Cool Finds" on the FOGW Facebook page is a good way to engage the community and Andree said a photo was essential and GPS coordinates and a description of context are also very useful to have. Katherine said that Gridfinder, can identify grid reference coordinates. Rhyddian then left the meeting at the request of the board.

2. Development Officer Report In Mick's absence Andree reported and said that the Forest management Plan was almost complete, the Boost It fund have requested an updated on progress, the Rural Start up Fund application is pending, the Atlantic Woodland Alliance is not progressing funding applications, there had been no progress on the Kilfinan Connect project, an offer of money has been forthcoming from an individual within the community for path/access improvement and there has been no work undertaken on pod project as there has been no response yet from the Argyll and Bute planning board.

Robin said we would like to receive this update in writing from Mick together with other information including contacts and other applications pending, Andree said she would get this. Eve said there might be a requirement from Kilfinan Connect for a signature to indicate our support or sign-up to this project. Rhyddian indicated that there will need to be a handover the MyForest app. **Action: Andree**

3. AGM It was agreed that the AGM should be held virtually and therefore that we would need to advertise its occurrence two weeks before its scheduled in date in November. Niall suggested that in view of the difficulties presented by the current constitutional requirement for three board members to stand down each year, we should look at changing our constitution to reflect both the size of our organisation and the small pool of potential board members locally.

It was agreed that Andree would collate the relevant clauses in constitutions used by similar bodies locally in order to help us devise and propose an arrangement which works for FOGW's circumstances in time for our next board meeting on Friday 30th October. Eve will send out an invitation to members to virtually attend the AGM on Zoom. There was a short discussion regarding potential new board members and a couple of names were suggested. Robin suggested we would need to see a brief CV indicating their relevant/useful skills. **Actions: Andree, Eve**

4. Development Officer Role There was some discussion around how to spend the remainder of the money available for the development officer role and whether the spending of this money could be delayed until easier access to funding streams becomes available, as well as how to undertake work related to the pod project and Forest Management Plan. Various options were discussed for this including the idea of using one person to undertake a reworking and update of the budget for the pod project and preparing building warrant and tender applications. Katherine pointed out that in terms of preparing a Forest Management Plan and associated applications, given the amount of work and its specialised nature the usual practice was to use an agent or consultant. All agreed that this sounded like a sensible way to proceed, depending on the current state of the Plan.

Katherine would liaise with Rhyddian over the Forest Management Plan, Eve would look into the flexibility of use of the Scottish Land Fund Development Officer grant and Andree would clarify progress on the Plan itself. Heather suggested that the responsibilities of the Development Officer could be divided between various individuals rather than being concentrated in one role. **Action: Eve, Katherine, Andree**

5. Date of next meeting The date of the next meeting which would include an update from staff was set for 30 October.

ENDS

