

**Glengarry Community Woodlands
SCOPING WALK AND OPEN MEETING**

20th July2016
Old Forestry Depot
Walk leaving from Depot @ 6pm and meeting @ 19.30hrs

People who attended Scoping walk:

Chris Piper - Forestry Consultant

George Cross, Colin Grant - directors GCW

Margaret Boyd, Helen MacGillivray - VAL community engagement officers

Ken Grant, Alan White, Biddy Ross, Alison Hoghton - residents of Glengarry community

Grace Grant stayed behind at Depot to welcome arrivals to meeting at 7.30pm

Directors Present at open meeting: George Cross, Catriona Menzies, Lindsay Rogers, Colin Grant, June Mathers, Grace Grant. In attendance - Chris Piper

Public Present at open meeting: Jon Fleming, Alan White, Ken Grant, Helen MacGillivray, Margaret Boyd, Hector Rogers, Alison Hoghton,

Summary of Actions from This Meeting

No	Action	Who	When
1	Application for new phone line and broadband connection	To be decided	end of July

Previous Minutes: The previous minutes have not been agreed - to be done at next Board meeting

Matters Arising (15/06/16): All matters arising are to be discussed and confirmed at next Board meeting

Scoping Walk:

George Cross, as acting Chair, thanked Chris Piper on our behalf for a very interesting and informative walk. Everyone who took part really felt they had benefited from Chris's informal and approachable manner. On the walk Chris stopped at several points to discuss various woodland features. Chris then introduced the Forest Plan by explaining that although it might seem prescriptive, this was mandatory for FCS, they have a set format and inclusions which he as a forester has to follow. There is a list of 'constraints' and 'opportunities' which he has to address.

He has still to apply for funding of the plan from SRDP but did not anticipate any problems with regard to this.

He has left maps which are on the wall of the Depot for folk to look at and digest what is being proposed. When it is complete, we will have a hard copies and an electronic copy. He has almost 3/4 of it finished.

We will arrange another two 'scoping' or 'consultative' walks through the woods to give as many people as possible from the community the opportunity to participate. It was suggested that one walk might be at the week-end and one further either evening or morning walk. This was felt to be a good idea.

It was agreed that Chris can be contacted via any of the Directors, with any questions/ issues about the plan, and they will keep a note of any such issues for discussion at the next walk. This is needed so that he can show that the community have an opportunity to have these questions/issues addressed and answered.

Chairman's Report: Given by George Cross

- Bruce Kocjan-Briggs had stepped down as Chair and as a director in June. George thanked Bruce for his past work.
- Gary Servant, the CDO resigned and left at the end of June 2016.
- We have appointed a new CDO from six applicants, Tom Cooper, from Urban Roots in Glasgow.
- The Chair thanked Ken Grant for doing the majority of the work in the upgrading of the Depot - to date he is our only volunteer so this must be addressed. George Cross has also been involved in this work.
- We are hoping to recruit new directors at the AGM so everyone is encouraged to read the Articles and think about applying. A Directors' information pack will soon be online summarising duties and responsibilities.

- We have now started a weekly walk under the auspices of 'Step It Up Highland' and Bidy Ross and Grace Grant walk leaders for this. It is a health walk taking in the surrounding area, and walks last no longer than 1hour. Everyone is welcome and we can change the walk to suit all abilities.

Work Achieved: Colin Grant

- New CDO appointed by unanimous decision of the interview panel- starting date is 24th August
- Thanks to Chris our Forest Plan is taking shape and everyone is getting a grasp of the possibilities
- We have finalised our Logo and are now working towards using it in Branding at every opportunity to identify it with GCW.
- The Depot renovation is progressing and it is hoped we can have our board meetings here now. There is also a small kitchen and large office space set up.
- We have electricity (thanks to Stephen White) and water and toilets now. One internal toilet and a disabled access external toilet.

and Planned:

- It is hoped to publicise the Forest Plan and then move on to how we can implement this through a business/ development plan
- We are hoping to rent out some storage space in the Depot, as it becomes available, to any interested members of the community. Contact Colin Grant for details.
- We have engaged Mike McNally to fence along the roadside and this will hopefully be done over the next few months. This makes the area safer for events with children.
- It is hoped we can get the Forest Classroom started with our CDO in the Autumn
- The potential is there too for setting up some wildlife hides and looking again at our survey for other ideas.
- The major problem we have at the moment is a lack of volunteers - this will be one of the first objectives we will set our new CDO.

Events: Lindsay Rogers:

- The plant sale held in June was a success, thanks in part to the lovely sunny day. It was enjoyed by all who attended and raised £200 plus £61 via the BBQ. It was suggested that in future years we could consider having a yearly Garden party at the Depot, and this will be discussed by the directors.
- The Highland Games weather was not good, being very wet, but £90 was raised between craft sales and donations. It was felt that the bad weather limited sales.
- The proposed Teddy Bears Picnic was cancelled this year and this suggested event will be reviewed next year at some point.
- The next upcoming event this year is the Craft Fair, in November, and a discussion will be held about this and the production of various crafts for sale, from individuals and as GCW. Lindsay will book a table for this on our behalf when the date is finalised.
- We can expect another quiz later this year or early next as it too proved to be very popular locally.

and Events: Grace Grant

- The event by Trees for Life will be taking place on the week-end of the 10-11th September culminating in an event in the Community Hall. Details have to be confirmed but the focus is on local history, tree planting, Gaelic language and story telling and the school will be heavily involved. Grace is liaising with Joyce Gilbert over this so will give details as she gets them.
- The small Forest working machinery event being planned by Amanda Calvert from Smallwoods, and involving both FCS and ourselves will hopefully take place in the woodlands the week-end of the 3rd Sept. but again details have to be finalised. Grace will post these when she gets them.
- Grace and Ken Grant attended the CWA meeting on Wed. 6th July in Balfron at Green Aspirations regarding Making Local Woods Work (MLWW) This was a networking event focused on 'developing community woods to deliver paid-for skills training to external customers'. Contact was made with Lorna ? from Knoydart, who said she would welcome a visit from us to look at their successful wood-fuel business, and craft sale business. The website of Hill Holt Wood in Lincolnshire is well worth a visit to see how successful very small enterprises can eventually become!

Finance: Grace Grant - acting Treasurer:

There being no major changes since last month no new report was produced. The accounts will be produced for the public at our AGM in November.

Any other business:

The Chair informed the meeting that we are likely to be going ahead with installing a phone line and broadband at the Depot for use by our CDO. The finances however have to be finalised, as although we can apply for funding for the installation, the ongoing monthly costs have to be considered.

Questions from the Floor:

There was only one question from the floor which concerned the naming of the existing building, currently being used as a storage depot, and office. There was some general discussion about this, with various opinions expressed.

The Chair thanked the meeting for its comments and said that the Board would consider these and discuss them at a later meeting.

There being no more questions the meeting closed.

Next Directors meeting TBA

Written by: Grace Grant 21/07/2016

These minutes are agreed and approved:

Date: _____

Role: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____