

Fernaig Community Trust

Minutes of Meeting 9th August 2022, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Roddy MacPherson, Neil MacRae, Lizzie Bird, Martin Irving and Becky Milne (FLS)

Apologies: Duncan Gibson

	<i>Action</i>
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting 12th July 2022</p> <p>Proposed by Georgie, seconded by Duncan and unanimously agreed.</p>	
<p>3. Becky Milne FLS</p> <p>Becky is responsible for visitor services for FLS and had kindly agreed to attend the meeting to discuss the FCT/FLS Strome Forest Concordat. The Concordat is now covered under the FLS Community Strategy and Becky will send Lizzie a link to view the documentation as review and renewing the Concordat will be needed in a few years.</p> <p>Lizzie pointed out some issues regarding Strome Woods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main track needs to be scraped clear as there are areas still covered mainly in bark detritus after the felling and removal of logs.• A large fir has fallen below the main track on the small lower path and picnic bench• Link between FLS and CC needs to include FCT as regards Strome Woods as the FCT was not informed of the CC's generous offer replacing a new bench in the woods. It was done by word of mouth and the FCT has no problem with this but just for the sake of good order FCT should have been informed.• Lizzie thanked Becky regarding the installation of the new gate at the end of the car park. This has stopped the problem of cars/camper vans going down the main track. The signs re no over-night parking have reduced the camper vans staying in the woods although there has been a few ignoring this. Monitoring this and the Loch Carron viewpoint one-night stay parking area is by the rangers.	Becky

<p>Becky confirmed the FLS Access Officer is Mark Crowe and the FCT should liaise with him regarding issues with Strome Woods. The FLS responsibility now only covers the designated path shown on the Strome Woods notice board which is a circular route up from the car park and then re-joining the main track. Becky pointed out there is some FLS work that will be needed at the top of this path. This means that if other work is needed, such as the fallen tree below the main track, it will require volunteer organisation by the FCT.</p> <p>Becky confirmed that P.pluvialis (a fungus-like pathogen known to affect a variety of tree species, including western hemlock, Douglas fir, tanoak and several pine species) has not been found in Strome Woods so far.</p> <p>It was suggested to Becky that a sign for Strome Woods be put on the main road to inform more people about the Woods.</p>	
<p>4. Finance</p> <p>Georgie reported on monthly finances for July</p> <p>Income - £617 – (£145 office rents, £472 small holdings)</p> <p>Expenditure - £157.37 (electricity)</p> <p>Balance - £7,964.42</p>	
<p>5. Next Steps with Office sale</p> <p>No update – last meeting noted that the formal offer and drafted disposition will take a few months.</p> <p>Colin had met with Ruairidh MacLennan (FLS) as arranged on 14th July.</p> <p>Neil, as a point of information on prior discussions regarding possible Housing Association interest, said that they were only offering £10k per site.</p>	Colin
<p>6. Trust Membership</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>7. Land issues</p> <p>The water gate on the burn has been cleared</p>	
<p>8. Footpaths</p> <p>The path work was carried out on Sunday the 31st July and the FCT would like to thank all the volunteers who turned out to help and to Duncan for organising. Weed control. posted as the path.</p>	All

<p>As agreed at the last meeting a kissing gate allowing access to the burn's bank was progressed and following Roddy's investigation a gate has now been ordered and is expected next Monday or Tuesday (16th/17th) and Roddy will deal with its delivery</p>	<p><i>Roddy</i></p>
<p>8. Allotments rent review</p> <p>Georgie had contact allotment holders to advise the increase which would come into effect in September. Some critical comments had been received, but also supportive comments' One suggestion received was a request to improve the state of the entrance to the allotments.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to carry out this work and Duncan will carry out a survey and source suitable materials.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Duncan would survey the allotments to see whether, using IPC, a water supply could be put in.</p>	<p><i>Duncan</i></p> <p><i>Duncan</i></p>
<p>9. Any other business</p> <p>Georgie requested all directors supply her with their mobile number as needed as part of paperwork received from the Bank. All at the meeting complied.</p>	

Date of next meeting:

13th September 7.30pm, Achmore Hall

Apologies noted from Roddy who will be away