

Minutes of Meeting 12th February 2025, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Neil MacRae, Lizzie Bird, Martin Irving and Kate Biss

Apologies: Roddy MacPherson and Chris Cartwright

Action

1. Welcome Colin McA welcomed all to the first of our regular Wednesday meetings.	
2. Minutes of Meeting 14th January 2025 Lizzie had also circulated Minutes of EGM held on 16th January when the two resolutions to convert to a SCIO and adopt the proposed Constitution were voted on unanimously. <i>Minutes proposed by Georgie, seconded by Neil and agreed.</i>	
3. Correspondence (All by email) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Colin P on possible ecological survey. Colin McA will follow up2. CLS Newsletter3. To members thanking them for attendance at EGM, plus outcomes4. Colin P on his concerns over 'agricultural production' of hayfield5. Information from Mary MacBeth on increase in website maintenance fees for 20256. CLS update on Scottish Land Fund; community energy conference; and S Fraser lecture7. Colin P on proposed aspen tree planting8. Hall Committee re cleanliness standards and advice on new heating system. <p>With reference to 4. – that we would be endangering our charitable status by gaining income, Colin McA referred to our existing Mem and Arts objectives and the new draft SCIO constitution which cover management of the community land. He had also been on the OSCR website which sets out different forms of trading, one of which is 'primary purpose trading' which is permitted. Some are issues more to do with tax implications and HMRC than charity law. However, if in the future, selling off the hay was an issue then we can check with OSCR.</p>	Colin McA

With reference to 7 - proposed tree planting, Kate raised the idea of edible hedges and perhaps planting to coppice. As an interesting concept she agreed to find out more information.	Kate
4. Finance Georgie presented the January accounts. Business Current Account Income £ 0 Expenditure £ 19.50 (Annual Contribution to S&A Website) Balance £ 9,614.30 35 Day Liquidity Account £60 555.81. £ 149.45 Interest <u>£60,705.26</u> Balance Georgie had received letter confirmation from HMC that for tax purposes they recognise us as a Charity. She had passed copy of the letter to the bank and then received a phone call today saying that it is just a generic form from HMRC don't really need it but would file it and sent an email confirmation. Georgie has finished the accounts for 2023/2024. Colin McA has written his Chair's report and Georgie her director's report. As we will not be having an AGM in the near future and the accounts have to be submitted by May it was agreed that Georgie would send the draft accounts to the Board for their approval and then submit to the auditors. With regard to the agreed donation to the Lochalsh Leisure Centre, Lizzie will find out details of where to send Lizzie has received notice of Insurance premium due to NFU of £481.16. due on 4 th March. There is not a problem with the premium as remaining pretty stable, but Lizzie will speak to NFU as wording on the policy needs updating or removal as references to Old Forestry Office Achmore being the premises address. Lizzie will ask for corrected policy to be sent.	

5. Land issues

a) Hayfield - Action re getting soil samples and analysis – ongoing.

Kate asked to be brought up to date and was asked whether she had any specific issues. She was wondering if we could incorporate any regenerative farming principles rather than spraying and ploughing the hayfield with the initial environmental impact. Martin said that for his field he has weed wiped and spot sprayed each year keeping maintenance to a minimum but the issue is that the whole of the hayfield, having had little treatment over a decade, was in a very sorry state. To bring the hayfield back to a state to better support the environment would include seeding with meadow flowers and mixed herbs etc. and ultimately this should produce a better hay crop for use by the community, Colin McA also mentioned possibility of future introduction of margins to improve support of wildlife and there was a discussion around Kate's idea of hedgerows around the field.

Kate left the meeting at 8.45pm to keep a prior engagement.

Colin McA said work plan for the hayfield will be discussed at the next meeting but April/May being the time when work should start.

b) Allotment entrance road repairs – 20 tons of type 1 stone material had been delivered and will need a working party to spread. Colin McA will talk to Duncan to see if he can help. Cost of the stone will be checked by Georgie.

c) Tenancy of Field 10 – Colin McA will email available tenancy around membership and be put on Website available tenancy.

Roddy

Colin McA

Georgie

Colin McA

<p>6. SCIO Process</p> <p>The EGM was held on the 16th January and the two resolutions voted on unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A special resolution of the company that it be converted into a SCIO - An ordinary resolution of the company adopting the proposed constitution of the SCIO. <p>Colin McA and Lizzie had a meeting and all required paper work will also include Colin McA's 2024 Chair's report for the accounts as well as Minutes of the EGM as background information. Lizzie will send to OSCR. .</p>	<p><i>Lizzie</i></p>
<p>7. AOB</p> <p>a) The water gate on the burn – part of it has been swept away and needs repair. Lizzie will contact Chris MacDonald and get him to speak to Coin McA re sorting out. Also check on bench below kissing gate.</p>	<p><i>Lizzie</i></p>

Meeting closed at 9.00

Date of next Committee Meeting Wed 12th March 2025, Achmore Hall, 7.30pm