

Fernaig Community Trust

Minutes of Meeting 12 March 2024, Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Colin Parsons, Martin Irving, Neil MacRae, Kate Biss, Chris Cartwright and from FLS - Alex Macleod, Mike Beveridge, Ruairidh MacLennan and Becky Milne

Apologies: Georgie Grimson, Roddy McPherson and Lynn McLaughlan

Action

<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Colin McA welcomed all to the meeting particularly the contingent from FLS.</p>	
<p>2. FLS and Forestry Concordat</p> <p>Bearing in mind that some of the FLS contingent had travelled some way to the meeting, Colin McA said that we appreciate their attendance and the opportunity to discuss Forestry matters at the beginning of our meeting to then allow them good time to travel home.</p> <p>Colin P began the discussion with highlighting the Concordat that has been in place since the Trust signed this agreement with the Forestry Commission in 2000. It was to run for 25 years until 2025 and the Trust felt it was important to maintain this agreement for our community in the future but understanding the changes over the years and that Forestry was re-organised and superseded by Forestry and Land Scotland – FLS.</p> <p>Alex Macleod, FLS North Regional Manager, explained the re-organisation and how FLS strategies have had to change but principles of the original Concordat in decision making, management of local forests and benefits to local communities are encompassed within new FLS agreements. On a point raised about FLS priorities, details of FLS plans are on the forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/active/lochalsh website. The plans run for 10 years and are reviewed every 5 years.</p> <p>It was agreed that the FLS will work with the Trust towards an updated agreement and the Trust will seek input from its members. Items which came up at the meeting included the continuing maintenance support for the footpaths in Strome Woods, firewood supplies and using the forest for educational and activity projects, as the Trust has supported in the past.</p> <p>One major concern were the problems caused by the increase in visitors, particularly camper vans. There were Rangers in place last year to minimise the problems but unfortunately, due to</p>	<p><i>FLS and The Trust</i></p>

<p>funding cuts, the FLS no longer have a Ranger to cover this area particularly the viewpoint over Loch Carron but although there will be no Ranger, FLS will inspect on a quarterly basis. It was agreed that we need to publicise that if people discover problems, they contact FLS or the Trust or Community Council to pass on to FLS.</p> <p>FLS agreed to try to assist the Trust with the storm damaged bridge by asking their civil engineer to provide advice.</p> <p>Colin McA thanked the FLS team for attending our meeting and for the positive and constructive discussion. It was agreed that the Trust will stay in communication with FLS about the new agreement but also to hold a meeting annually.</p>	<p><i>FLS</i></p> <p><i>FLS</i></p>						
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting 13 February 2024</p> <p>Colin P asked about signatories re the bank account under item 4. Finance. It was confirmed that as signatories Georgie and Lizzie would be provided with debit cards so their names added to the minutes. Colin P also noted that under Item 7 Land Issues his initials incorrectly (probably a typo) put against an action, carried out by Lizzie so this will be changed.</p> <p>Minutes proposed by Martin and seconded by Chris and agreed..</p> <p>Lizzie will send PDFs to Colin P for Jan meeting (as missing from web site) and February meeting.</p>	<p><i>Lizzie</i></p> <p><i>Lizzie</i></p>						
<p>4. Matters arising Mostly covered by agenda.</p> <p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) CLS notification of their annual conference in Perth in May.</p> <p>b) Email to Colin McA from Neil Clapperton from Lochalsh Housing Association announcing his resignation and setting up his own company. Agreed that any contact with the Housing Association should be the remit of the new CC.</p>							
<p>5. Finance</p> <p>Colin McA submitted the February accounts from Georgie, who had sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, as follows -</p> <table data-bbox="323 1783 1062 1933"> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td>£ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td>(£638.00 (£101.52 Sand from Jewsons £536.48 NFU Insurance)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td>£10,200.18</td> </tr> </table>	Income	£ 0	Expenditure	(£638.00 (£101.52 Sand from Jewsons £536.48 NFU Insurance)	Balance	£10,200.18	
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<p>agreed. Lizzie said we need to have a meeting but having circulated the draft document first and with an explanation of reasons why it would be beneficial to the Trust bearing in mind it is the rules – the Constitution - of running the company now and in the future.</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p> <p>Colin McA had sent out the Work Plan for the Board to look at and raise any other items/suggestions to finalise the plan.</p> <p>Colin McA confirmed we now have a new Community Council.</p>	<p><i>All</i></p>

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 9 April 2024, Achmore Hall, 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.