



Minutes for meeting via Zoom
19.30 hrs, 16th September 2021.

Attendees:

Paul Bulmer (PB), Reg Macdonald (RD), Ros McGhee (RM), Cathleen Russell (CR), Gary Kirby (GK), John McNaughton (JM), Graham Curran (GC)

Apologies:

Previous minutes:

2nd June 2021 Proposed: GC Seconded: RM

8th July 2021 proposed: JM Seconded: RM

Declarations of interest:

CR is a director of the Scottish Rural Action and the Bute Ferry Group, the advisory group for Argyll and Bute Climate Challenge and Treasurer of the Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council.

PB Convenor of Colintrave and Glendaruel Community Council and on the board of the Kilmodan Acre Trust.

Election of Treasurer:

RM proposed and unanimously elected.

Stronafian Forest:

Motion 1 proposed: The Colintrave and Glendaruel Development Trust accepts the report as presented and adopts its recommendations. Seconded by GK.

No vote was held on this motion.

Several directors questioned whether the Motion was to start financial negotiations with Stakis or just to negotiate the cancelation of the lease. When asked about Stakis having paid £1,300,000 for the lease RM said that the SWG Report suggested the repayment of this money, at least partially from income already received.

Motion 2 proposed: A committee of two, John Allan and Graham Curran should be appointed. Following further discussion, Motion 2 amended: John Allan be appointed by the CGDT to hold talks with Stakis as lead negotiator. The Motion was not seconded.

No vote was held on this motion.

CR let the Board know that she had been approached by Stakis for a meeting in the near future. Some directors were violently against this and immoderate language used.

Motion 3 Proposed: The SWG group, together with Graham Curran, be appointed to advise and support John Allan. The Motion not seconded.

No vote was held on this motion.

Motion 4 proposed: Does the Board wish to accept the recommendations of the SWG Report. Motion not seconded. An improper vote was held and the Motion received 6 votes for, 1 against.

Motion 5 Proposed: The SWG group, together with Graham Curran, be appointed to advise and support John Allan in the background. Motion not seconded.

No vote was held on this motion.

Motion 6 proposed: Does the Board accept John Allan as its chief negotiator. The Motion was not seconded. An improper vote was held and the Motion received 7 votes for, 0 against.

Motion 7 proposed: Graham Curran is appointed John Allan's second. The Motion was not seconded.

No vote was held on this motion.

Motion 8 proposed: John Allan to have the power to call any parties for assistance as he sees fit and to bring any negotiated solution to the Board for final approval. The Motion was not seconded.

An improper vote was held and the Motion received 7 votes for, 0 against.

Staffing:

CR told the Board that discussions had been held by some members of the Board with a view to either withdrawing the contracts of Amber Llovet and Charlie Collins or reducing their hours. This was news to several directors present. CR claimed to have distributed a spreadsheet of figures to members of the Board, but again, some members had not received this.

GK asked what reserve the Board should hold against contingencies. RM pointed out that without a professional administrator the CGDT would be unable to access funding streams in a timely manner. Also, who would be responsible for any future application? GK Pointed out that charities used volunteer administrators successfully and that this was an opportunity to employ young local people as the future allowed.

CR told the Board that AL and CR had worked on an application to get money for polytunnels and employ additional workers in the area of self-sufficiency and food production on a local level. The funders seem very happy with the application and AL's hours could not be adjusted. GC brought the discussion back to the question of contingencies. GK insisted that the woes of our contractors, should their contracts be cancelled and they be replaced with volunteers, was not our problem and the CGDT doesn't have the money to keep paying contractors as the Board needs it all in order to fulfil its duties as a land owner. RD wanted to set a reserve, and wanted to know if AL and CC were currently an asset to CGDT. The discussion then diversified to include Sudden Branch Drop in Oaks and the effect of Phytophthora ramorum on Larch. RM told the Board that Phytophthora was throughout Cowal, but the Larch can still be cut and sold. GK disputed this. RM brought the discussion back to the point – the Board must set a reserve at the October meeting and a report on the work currently being done by AL and CC must be undertaken to inform this decision. CR told the Board that no notice period would be required. GC argued that the Boards top priority should be to find a source of income so that AL and CC can continue to be paid.

The Minutes end at this point as PB left the meeting. The meeting continued.

DONM:

Not discussed.