



Registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Number: SC046567



STEERING GROUP MEETING MINUTES Buckleuch Hotel Tuesday, 10th May, 2016, 19.30

Present: Peter Bower, Colin Brydon, Jon Haydon, Tom Mulholland, Robbie Porteous, Peter Ryan, Peter Beck-Samuels
Apologies: Richard Musgrave-Wood

1. Welcome & Apologies:

There were no members in attendance, but apologies had been received from a number.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 16.04.16:

Accepted; proposed Jon, seconded Robbie

3. Matters Arising:

It was noted that Peter B-S had e-mailed the contact in Tasmania, but there has been no response.

4. Website:

Colin gave an update, and confirmed that Jon and Peter B-S had been given Editorial capacity, and Peter B-S authorship capacity. It was noted that the website is starting to take shape; it was noted that there should not be too many people with ability to upload / amend material. It was agreed that Robbie, Colin and Juliet should meet to look at content, and Colin is to provide guidelines on its use. Questions for the SG inCB/RP/JB general were:

- What works / does not work
- What should go on
- What images should be uploaded: 'historical' images should go on the website and 'news' images should go on Facebook.

5/6. Scottish Land Fund Application / Valuation:

These items were taken together since they were interlinked.

- The Scottish Land Fund Committee meeting has taken place, and we await their response. We are mildly optimistic given the support from SLF to date.
- The priority now is to find the 5% 'matched' funding required. The options remain:
 - To accept a loan from Annandale Estates in the interim
 - To agree deferred payment
 - To obtain the funding through grants and donations
- Jon has been in discussion with Heritage Lottery Fund, and has submitted a preliminary statement; it sounds a potential source JH
- A loan / deferred payment would be included in the brief for our solicitor [as in Item 13]
- Tom is exploring the possibility of a donation from the Moffat Clan TM
- Peter B has a contact ['Sherrif Bob'] who may be willing to give a donation PB
- Other options are included in discussions under Item 7.

OSCR:

This Item was taken here, since it was not on the formal Agenda, but was relevant.

Tom has had contact from OSCR raising 3 points in connexion with our application:

- They did not accept that we had valid reason to exclude Tom's address from the register. Tom was comfortable with this; his main concern was that there should be an alternative contact whilst he is away in Canada
- They queried whether ownership had transferred to us, and wanted to confirm that there would be no residual economic benefit to the present owners
- Our constitution [Para 3] states that our name is Moffat Community Woodlands [SCIO] whereas we have indicated in our application that our name is Moffat Community Woodlands. It was agreed that we would prefer to remain as 'Moffat Community Woodlands' without SCIO. *[post-meeting note: our original constitution only had Moffat Community Woodlands, but on advice from HIE we subsequently added 'SCIO' to it].*

Tom agreed to contact OSCR to clarify these issues. TM

7. Steering Group Structure / next steps:

The Reports included by Peter B-S and Jon were discussed. It was agreed that this was the next step in moving forward to operational planning, in anticipation of approved funding from SLF. The structure / contents of the reports were agreed. Robbie was keen that we should have a consistent approach to informing the membership about our objectives, so that we all should present a unified approach. Robbie agreed to prepare something for use by SG members. The following agreed to be part of the Standing Committees:

- Hill management / planning: Jon, Robbie JH/RP
- Finance and Fund-raising: Jon, Peter B-S, Colin JH/PBS/CB
- Community engagement: Robbie, Colin, Tom RP/TM

Peter B-S agreed to draft a letter to members inviting involvement in these groups. PBS

8. Membership:

3 new members [as tabled] were ratified.

9. Finance Report:

Jon provided an update to the financial report. There has been little change other than a small donation.

Jon has provisionally booked the Town Hall for a Hogmanay ceilidh in 2017 since it is a good fund-raising opportunity. The £15 deposit for this was approved.

Jon also noted that the Sing! Moffat project has been approved. There is potential to hold outdoor concerts on the Hill as part of the project.

Potential Organisations to link to: Jon presented his report on useful organisations, their benefits and costs. It was agreed that we should join SCVO [free], Third Sector [already a member] and Community Woodlands Association [£30 pa]. Other organisations raised included Southern Upland Partnership and Reforestry Scotland.

JH

10. Members Forum:

Not applicable since there were no observers

11. AOCB:

Peter Dreghorn's e-mail re the possibility of holding a seminar in his woodland was supported; Colin is keen to go. Peter B-S to respond appropriately

PBS

12. DONM:

Monday 6th June, 19.30 in Buccleuch Hotel. It should be appropriate to invite members as observers.

13. Confidential Item [Legal Appointment]:

Three potential legal advisers had been recommended:

Brazenall & Orr [Dumfries]: Timing not appropriate, and not up to speed with land transfers

Hendersons [Dumfries]: Will not take on until we are a SCIO

Alan Davidson [AM Simpsons]: Very happy to undertake the work; would be done at charitable rate.

Appointment of Alan Davidson was approved. Peter B-S to inform him, and arrange a meeting.

PBS

It was noted that Elaine Walton had offered the possibility of using Primrose and Gordon [the law firm she works for]. It was agreed that we should thank her, but it should be recognised that we had already approached Alan Davidson.