

Arran community land initiative Trustee meeting- 10/1/19

Venue- Benview-16.30

Present- Joanne Godwin, Jill Wilkinson, Rob Cowieson, Nick Burgess

Apologies- Keith Robertson

Minutes of previous meeting (13/12/18) - Adopted as an accurate record.

Agenda-

Matters arising/actions from 13/12/18-

-Unpaid invoices from North Ayrshire council (re potato growing) - Following investigation North Ayrshire has not set up an account with acli.

Action- Rob to arrange account suitable for acli and North Ayrshire and confirm with Jo.

Barbed wire- Nick to raise with Darren. Jill thought that the barbed wire could be swapped with a strand from a field further up the hill.

Water supply for horses- This is currently working well simply by run-off into buckets from the roof.

Forest hut records- Nick met Juliette at the forest hut and obtained a duplicate set of keys. A large bag of records is now being filed, digitised where appropriate and in due course made more accessible to trustees. There was no further membership information found, but there are some further records in the hut which can be examined prior to next trustee meeting.

Trustee personal information- The trustees agrees to supply Rob with brief biographical data and a 'mugshot' for the website and charity records by 7/2/19.

Contractual work- Nick advised that he had met Darren. Darren agreed that he should be paid as self-employed and can use his social enterprise to invoice acli. Nick confirmed with Darren that acli would set priorities/tasks and would pay an enhanced rate of £18.50 per hour for 14 hours per month, based on Darren largely supervising groups of volunteers, children or others on acli business.

Jo raised consequential needs for Acli to have a record of the purpose and set up of the social enterprise and the hmrc tax reference. We also agreed that

Darren could no longer be an administrator for website/facebook. In general while acli may use this social enterprise as a trusted partner, if documentation checks out, we need to ensure a separation between acli and the social enterprise and particularly that the social enterprise needs to approach acli and gain approval prior to running any employability or college related activities on acli land.

Financial Update- We confirmed that for the calendar year 2019 we could afford to fund 14 hours per month for the social enterprise to provide a supervisor. If no further income was received by acli this would leave us with £4100 at year end.

We discussed the request by Keith to invest monies from the previous year's potato growing in a similar venture in 2019. Jo advised that the 2018 experience had barely covered our outgoings and that excluded time and angst in growing and selling the crop. Given the, at best, 'break even' status of the potato project last year there is no residual profit to reinvest. The trustees agreed that repeating the project along the lines of last year was not a viable option.

Jo highlighted the entries and timings for the 'paths for all' project and the need to attend to this as a priority, as well as plans for the tree planting.

Given our reliance on grant income we also discussed the need to create an annual budget within which to frame our activities. This would include payments to contractors, replacement and servicing of tools, materials and supplies, audit, and sundry costs relating to the running of the charity and achieving its objectives. We can return to this idea at the next monthly meeting.

We acknowledged that the tool audit may throw up costs to cover in 2019.

Nick advised that Darren was concerned that all the type 1 aggregate had now been used for paths. He advised that the Trustees should consider purchasing another ton or two of aggregate for paths.

Grant update- Rob provided a document detailing grants obtained, those we were waiting on and those likely to be applied to. We hope to hear from Ninevah in February 2019 re the £7500 per year over 2 years.

The paths relevant to connecting with Glenashdale falls requires action soon.

Action- Nick to speak with Darren re timescale.

Action- Rob to speak with Mike Goodwin re improving signage.

We acknowledged that we needed a regular spread of applications to funders as we would not be successful with everyone.

Action- Rob to attend funding meeting on 23/1/19 and all trustees to advise of any ideas/opportunities to Rob.

Tree Planting- Nick stated he had had a preliminary discussion with Darren over where to plant the trees for wildlife and working wood. In our walk over the land we thought that we could split the trees into roughly 150 per block.

Block 1- close to the forestry commission boundary

Block 2- on the slope adjacent to the entrance from the Glenashdale path

Block 3- (working wood)- On the slope adjacent to the quarry.

Nick has asked Darren to supply a map detailing this proposal for the meeting on 7/2/19.

It is thought that many of the trees can be planted by children from schools and the outdoor centre.

Deer management- The trustees discussed how best to protect both the new trees and the allotment holders from Deer. A number of factors were raised, including-

- a) Increased number of ticks on horses ridden across acli land.
- b) Incidence of Lyme disease affecting a trustee from ticks while walking acli land.
- c) The likely increase in footfall across the upper fields when paths are constructed and potential increased exposure to Lyme disease.
- d) The economic viability and time involved in fencing large areas of land.
- e) The effect on neighbouring land holders from what could be seen as a 'protected herd' of deer living on acli land and foraging further afield.
- f) Conversation with the forestry commission on how best to manage tree plantations suggests that fencing is expensive, has limited effect due to persistence of deer and culling is the most effective way to keep deer numbers down and protect trees and other produce.
- g) If acli land was fenced it would simply move deer to adjacent properties where they may be culled anyway.

The trustees reluctantly, but unanimously, decided that giving permission to the forestry commission to cull Deer on acli land was necessary. By doing so we would be better integrated with other land holdings across the south part of the island, better protect allotment growers and new trees from damage and play our part in improving public health by mitigating against the significant risk of exposure to Lyme disease for all users of acli land.

The trustees authorised Rob and Nick to meet with Forestry commission representatives to agree the details of putting this decision into practise.

Volunteer Strategy (including communication)- We discussed the three current planned days in January/February/March. How best to advertise them and recruit/retain volunteers.

Action- We agreed that Rob would use a variety of communication methods to reach members, allotment holders and the wider public. The intention being to get people together at the hub on 10/2 to discuss future steps.

(Gratifyingly at the volunteer day on 12/1/19, 7 volunteers turned up and were supervised by Darren)

Aocb-

Arran network meeting- Rob attending

Eco-Savvy- Had asked whether acli were attending a school event on 29/1/19. Rob to ask if Darren could attend as he had done so in 2018.

Date of next meeting- 7/2/19 @ 16.30 in Benview.

Further meetings on the first Thursday of the month at same time/venue unless otherwise advised.