

Arran community land initiative

Trustees meeting

1/12/18- 11.00-13.00

Venue- Land initiative

Present- Rob Cowieson, Jill Wilkinson, Keith Robertson, Joanna Godwin, Nick Burgess.

Absent- Juliette Walsh

Informal session- Walk about the land

The trustees spent 90 minutes walking over much of the land. This was a useful reminder of the amount of land available and led to some conversations between trustees severally or together on possibilities and priorities. Given the nature of this part of the meeting I can only bullet point matters arising from memory and which were audible to me.

Accessibility- In order to manage the land there is a need to improve certain paths to a standard allowing a tractor or similar vehicle access to all fields. In one place improving the drainage at the same time as improving the path should reduce the likelihood of damage to the path.

Forestry commission track- Connecting a path from acli to the forest track could have a range of benefits. However it would need consultation and permission from the Golf club who own an intervening piece of land.

Topping fields- Some fields are being taken over by Rush and scrub. While it is not possible to bring all fields into full use in the short term, being able to top fields would reduce the future effort needed to bring the fields into use-once we have agreed the strategic plan.

Wild flower meadows- There is potential to turn one or two areas into spring and summer flowering meadows. They would need grazed after the flowers had set seeds. In order to develop meadows a measure of preparatory work is required.

Wetland- There are areas where instead of allowing Rush to dominate a potentially boggy area, the land could be managed into areas with wider

appeal for invertebrates, amphibians and other wildlife. It could also be planted with a wider range of wetland loving flowers such as meadow sweet.

Scenic areas- There are areas which have the potential to be enhanced visually and/or via paths. However doing so may require more expensive bridge/path work.

Fallen trees- We passed at least one fallen Ash tree. With improved access there may be possibilities in removing such wood for use.

Hedges- Hedges are being overgrown with Gorse and trees such as Beech are growing to their full height. Some thought may need to go into the future plan for hedging.

Grazing- There is potential for offering farmers opportunity to graze sheep at certain times in certain fields. However this may not achieve appreciable rental income. Unless looked at as some kind of quid pro quo where it suits us to have a wildflower meadow grazed rather than gather up the waste ourselves.

Polythene- A sizeable area of land is under polythene. The soil appears weed free and is suitable for planting. Soft fruit was raised a possibility but control of Deer would be required.

Formal meeting-

Office bearers- Jill and Keith indicated that they did not currently wish to be office bearers.

Rob advised that he was happy to continue being the chair until the next agm.

Jo indicated that she was happy to continue being treasurer until next agm.

Nick advised that he would take on the role of secretary.

Conflict of interest- Keith asked about procedure should conflict of interest arise. Rob said that 'OSCR' guidance was quite clear whereby there is a collective requirement to identify, discuss and agree how any potential conflict of interest should be managed with the best interests of the charity in mind.

Meeting times/dates- The consensus was that meetings should preferably be during the week and after 16.00 at the earliest. Rob offered his house as a normal meeting location.

Rob emphasised that 'OSCR' guidance makes clear that decision making by trustees is made by a quorum of trustees physically meeting together.

To make meetings as business like as possible an agenda and any supporting papers should normally be circulated prior to the trustee monthly meeting.

It was acknowledged that use of e mail, phone etc would be important in clarifying issues, updating information but not a substitute for decision making at trustee meetings.

Charity regulations- Rob stated that acli was in danger of not meeting charity regulations in two areas-

A- Not having an up to date members list

B- Not having a record of trustees from inception of the charity.

It was agreed that we needed to rectify these matters as a matter of urgency.

Volunteers- Nick was concerned that we also needed a list of potential volunteers and skills to inform the future planning of work on the land.

Next meeting- It was agreed that if at all possible we should try and have a trustees meeting prior to 17/12/18 in order to discuss some of the matters we did not have time for today.

Action- Rob agreed to find a time suitable for a quorate of trustees as soon as convenient.